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THE TIMES

SATURDAY DECEMBER 22 1984

20p

Portfolio

£42,000 to be won

There is £42,000 to be won in *The Times'* Portfolio competition today – the weekly prize of £40,000 plus the £2,000 daily prize. Yesterday's £2,000 prizewinner was Mr J. H. Woodhouse, of Ealing, W13. Portfolio list, page 22; price changes, back page Information Service.

Exports hit record £6.54 bn

The pound rallied to $1.1735, with exports reaching a record £6.45 billion last month. Britain's current account surplus totalled £278 million, with the trade deficit dropping to £122 million from October's £888 million.

Trade in manufactured goods returned to surplus, reflecting an overall rise of 15 per cent in exports to the US. Page 19

Miners' cash unfrozen

The National Union of Mineworkers has won back partial control of the £2.7 million it moved to the Irish Republic, after a Dublin court ruled that the assets should be unfrozen. Page 2

Maxwell helps out Southend

Robert Maxwell, the Oxford United chairman, and Ken Bates, his Chelsea counterpart, have loaned Southend United, the financially troubled fourth division club, £70,000 to spare them bankruptcy proceedings. Page 24



£700m error

The Government has admitted a £700 million error in its published council grant figures Page 2

Air fare cuts

The US and British governments have formally agreed to approve winter transatlantic air fare cuts, the State Department announced

Drought ends

The drought that has devasted much of Southern Africa north of the Limpopo for the past three years has ended Page 6

Early sale

Britain's Royal Ordnance factories are to be privatized on January 2, more than a year earlier than expected, the Government announced yesterday. The previous likely date for privatization of the 13 factories was mid-1986.

Ford arbitration

Ford management has agreed to arbitration by an independent job evaluation panel in the five-week strike by 270 women sewing machinists that has crippled car production.

Liverpool win

Liverpool moved up to fifth place in the first division, their highest position this season, by winning 2-0 at Queen's Park Rangers last night.

Captain wanted

Wales needs a new rugby union captain quickly, after the resignation of Watkins on Thursday. Holms is the favourite, with Ackerman the outsider. Page 24

Power shift in Politburo after death of Ustinov

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister and a powerful influence in the Kremlin, has died at the age of 76. The last night ended months of speculation by announcing that he had died on Thursday "after a grave illness". It did not elaborate.

The Kremlin announcement, released on Tass and read on Moscow television, said the leadership had learned "with deep sorrow" of the death of "an outstanding figure". An obituary signed by President Chernenko said Marshal Ustinov had led a "vivid, glorious life", and had held senior posts in the economy and defence industries.

It praised his role as wartime armaments Minister, adding that he had "made a considerable contribution to developing rocketry and exploring outer space".



Marshal Ustinov: Figure of power in Kremlin.

Marshal Ustinov, Defence Minister for the past eight years, had "firmly and unswervingly implemented" Soviet defence policy, and had "greatly contributed to raising the combat-preparedness of the Army and Navy".

The news was announced first by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Kremlin number two, who cut short his visit to Britain by a day to return to Moscow. He arrived in Moscow yesterday from Edinburgh, describing Marshal Ustinov's death, before leaving, as "a great and tragic loss".

The first indication that Marshal Ustinov had died came when the Soviet authorities announced a recess in the World Chess Championship at the Hall of Columns, near Red Square, traditionally used for the lying in state of senior Kremlin leaders.

Officials at the building confirmed that Marshal Ustinov had died, but gave no cause of death. Sources said the lying in state would take place this weekend, with a ceremonial Red Square funeral on Monday.

A medical bulletin said he had died of a heart attack after liver and kidney failure arising from pneumonia, which he contracted in late October.

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The Marshal had not been seen in public since the end of September, when he presented medals to President Chernenko. Alarm rose on November 7, when Marshal Ustinov failed to attend the military parade marking the anniversary of the Revolution. The parade was reviewed instead by Marshal Sergei Sokolov, one of Marshal Ustinov's first deputies, who is 73.

The other two are Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, 67, the new Chief of Staff and Marshal Viktor Kulikov, 63, commander-in-Chief of the Warsaw Pact.

Marshal Sokolov, Marshal Akhromeyev and General Viktor Chebrikov of the KGB are to serve on the funeral commission, but not Marshal Kulikov.

Tass said the funeral commission was headed by Mr Grigory Romanov, aged 61, a Politburo member, indicating that he may succeed Marshal Ustinov rather than one of the marshal's deputies, all of whom are professional military men.

There was speculation over whether the Kremlin would appoint a military figure such as Marshal Sokolov as Defence Minister. Marshal Ustinov was a party official by origin, and thus the first civilian to head the armed forces since Trotsky.

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Scottish welcome: Mr Mikhail Gorbachov receiving a gift of shortbread from Andrey Campbell, a castle warden, during his visit to Holyrood Castle, Edinburgh, yesterday.

Gorbachov leaves early

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the senior Politburo member, cut short his visit to Britain yesterday as news came from Moscow of the death of Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister.

Mr Gorbachov had arrived in Scotland when his plans were dramatically changed. He told reporters at Edinburgh airport that he and his delegation had been recalled to Moscow.

Marshal Ustinov, "our old friend and comrade at arms", had passed away. That was indeed a great and tragic loss, he said. Mr Gorbachov was to have left Scotland for the Soviet Union later today.

A banquet at Edinburgh Castle went ahead without the Soviet delegation. Instead, residents of an Edinburgh old people's home were invited to enjoy the occasion and the food in the King's Hall of the castle.

Gorbachov hails links, page 4
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Lord and Lady Spencer with Mrs Shand-Kydd (far right) leaving St George's Chapel yesterday.

Prince Henry christened in style

By Tony Samstag

Prince Henry Charles Albert David was christened in St George's Chapel at Windsor, yesterday.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, performed the ceremony at the gilded lily font used since Victorian days, while the three-month-old infant, dressed in the traditional Honiton lace robes used by generations of Royal babies, cried only once during the 20-minute service.

Pricess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips alone among the Royal Family did not attend the service, although their two children, Master Peter and Miss Zara Phillips, was present. Buckingham Palace described the couple's absence as unfortunate.

It was because of "a long-standing private engagement that had been fixed far in advance of the christening," a spokesman added. Princess Anne and Captain Phillips were due to attend the traditional Christmas party at Windsor later.

They spent much of the day shooting with Captain Phillips' father, Major Peter Phillips, and returned to their home at Gatcombe Park, Gloucestershire, late in the afternoon with "a good bag" of rabbits, the Palace said.

Prince Henry's brother, Prince William, aged 2½, attended the service, which a chorister described as "a quiet family affair, a very moving and charming service".

Prince Henry had cried only "for two or three minutes while the Archbishop was blessing the holy water". "He was quiet as a mouse throughout the rest of the baptism."

A nursery had been set up at the castle overnight under the supervision of Miss Barbara Barnes. The Princess of Wales was the first to arrive in the morning, with the Prince of Wales, driving his Jaguar, close behind, just ahead of Princess Margaret and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones. The Queen, Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Andrew, Prince Edward and the Queen Mother arrived in a convoy.

Prince Andrew and Lady Sarah were chosen as Royal godparents. Prince Henry's other godparents are Mr Brian Organ, the royal portrait painter; Mrs Carolyn Bartholomew, a former flatmate of the Princess of Wales; Lady Vestey and Mr Gerald Ward, a long-standing friend of the Prince Wales.

The Princess of Wales's family attended in force: Lord Spencer, her father, and his wife Lady Spencer; the Hon Mrs Shand-Kydd, her mother; Lord Althorp, her brother, and Lady Sarah McCorkindale and Lady Jane Fellowes, her sisters.

Debate on GLC abolition Bill to be guillotined after 80 hours

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Government is to risk another parliamentary storm by cutting short debate on its chief measure of the session, the Local Government Bill, at the earliest feasible date.

The Cabinet has decided that a guillotine should be imposed early in February, within a month of the return of MPs from their Christmas recess, which began yesterday.

Ministers are deeply concerned at the likelihood of long delays in the House of Lords to the Bill, which is to abolish the Greater London Council and the metropolitan councils and distribute their functions among other authorities.

To give the Lords as much time as they will require, the Bill must complete its passage through the Commons by the beginning of April.

The intention is to resort to the guillotine after 80 hours of line-by-line discussion of the Bill in standing committee. Opposition MPs on the committee will be angry at what they will see as a breach in a convention which requires a minimum of 120 hours of discussion over six weeks before an important Bill is guillotined.

Eighty hours, they argue, is normal only for a short measure such as the Rates Bill enacted in the last parliamentary session, which had 19 clauses. The Local Govrnment Bill has 98 clauses, and 17 schedules which more than double its length.

The Government's plans will be challenged as soon as the committee reconvenes on January 10. The Opposition has agreed to sitting twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays,

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and will find that the sessions will sit regularly until after midnight so that the 80-hour tally is reached by February 5.

The 15 Labour and three Alliance MPs will not shake the Government's majority of 11 on the unusually large 47-member committee. But the Government can expect a renewed outbreak of hostility from Conservative critics of the Bill when it asks the approval of the whole House for the guillotine motion.

The Government's exceptional forcing of the pace may aggravate the difficulty it is designed to resolve. The proposal is that the guillotine, or timetable, if imposed early, will allow generous time for each part of the Bill to be debated.

But in practice the guillotine process, which destroys any willingness to co-operate, always leaves many clauses undiscussed. The Lords, on past practice, will think it their duty to pay special attention to the undiscussed clauses, so tending to take up all the time that the Government hopes to save.

At the same time, the rules of procedure in the Lords do not allow for timetabling, and the Government whips have few sanctions to compel Conservative peers to attend and vote.

The rare if not unprecedented decision a week ago to keelhaul Lord Alport for desertion was seen by peers in all parties as proof of both fer and impotence in the leader of the Lords, Lord whitelaw, and the government chief whip, Lord Denham.

Ministers maintain in public that they do not expect to be forced to concede important amendments to the Bill. In private they believe that they may have to give way and allow some continuing all-London authority, possibly indirectly elected, to remain in place.

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US looks to Thatcher for support

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, meets President Reagan at Camp David today, with American officials confidently predicting that Britain will strongly support the United States' approach to next month's arms talks with the Soviet Union in Geneva.

Mr Reagan is keenly awaiting to hear the outcome of Mrs Thatcher's talks with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, a Soviet Politburo member, particularly in relation to Soviet condemnation of America's "star wars" programme. He is also anxious to hear about Mrs Thatcher's talks in Peking.

The Prime Minister, who arrived here last night from Peking via Hong Kong, will hold a working breakfast with Vice-President Bush before going to Camp David, the President's mountain retreat in Maryland, for their first

Continued on back page, col 1

Appeal to Lords on pill ruling

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Government is to appeal to the House of Lords against the Court of Appeal ruling banning the prescription of contraceptives to girls under 16 without their parents' consent, but in the meantime is suspending its guidance on contraception and abortion advice for young people.

The decisions were announced in the Commons yesterday as criticisms mounted of the ruling on the six-year campaign by Mrs Victoria Gillick, the Roman Catholic mother of 10 from Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

In response to "dozens" of telephone calls from worried doctors, the BMA yesterday issued its own guidance in an attempt to clear up the meaning of "emergency" – exceptional circumstances which would, according to the Court of Appeal, allow doctors to ignore the requirement to consult parents.

The BMA said that the judgment did not suggest that a doctor who prescribed the pill for a girl under 16 to safeguard her health without telling her parents, would be guilty of an offence.

Its concern was with problem families where uncaring parents had thrown a girl aged 15 out of the house, and children were sexually abused. Doctors would have to weigh possible damage to the patient through pregnancy, with risk of action by parents "who have already shown their lack of care for the girl".

The association, which yesterday forecast more unwanted pregnancies and a return to backstreet abortions as a result of girls under 16 no longer seeing their doctors for advice, insisted that only in a "very few cases" were girls unlikely to involve parents. Doctors persuaded the great majority to get their parents' consent.

The Government's decision to appeal was announced by Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of State for Health, who said that the ruling had very wide implications and the law needed to be clarified quickly. The DHSS guidance would be reviewed once the outcome of the appeal was known.

The Children's Legal Centre, a national organization dealing with laws and policies affecting oung people, yesterday described the Court of Appeal judgment as "appalling", which the Royal College of Nursing said it "regretted" the decision.

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Christmas choice highlights the North-South divide

By Staff Reporters

Britons are treating themselves to the good life at Christmas this year, either flying abroad for skiing holidays or drinking champagne at home.

Thousands of enthusiasts have had a disappointing arrival at the ski resorts of Europe, many of which are still green when they should be white with snow.

The main anti-climax for many is that they are unable to ski down the slopes back to the village settlements. Instead they have to make the descent by cable car, the same way they ascended.

Tour operators and tourist boards acknowledge the temporary crisis, but insist that come Christmas Eve there should be a heavier snowfall. It is chiefly in the low altitude areas where there is a dearth of snow.

The Austrian Tourist Board admitted that many valleys, especially in the Tyrol, were mote verdant than they should be, but said that the valley glaciers were good for skiing.

"This year the problem has been particularly bad, but it is changing," it said. In many resorts where there were only 20 centimeters of snow in the valleys, there are as much as 130 centimeters on the summits.

In Switzerland much of the snowfall is "powdery" and unlikely to withstand skiers unless mechanically compacted.

Even so, thousands of skiers are still flying out. Tour operators have reported few cancellations as a result of the unseasonal weather.

The number of flights to hotter climes is also up, with most passengers taking holidays in the Mediterranean sun spots, and the Caribbean.

In Britain, southerners have been enjoying a Christmas spending spree, but northerners have had to stint. That is largely attributed to the miners' strike. While Fortnum and Mason have been selling Christmas hampers at £600 each to Londoners, stores in Doncaster have been having a "drastic time."

One department store is said to have been losing £1.4 million a week over the Christmas period because of the loss of miners' salaries among the takings.

Countrywide, sales of table wines have gone up by about 30 per cent on last year, and champagne is the biggest seller among the sparkling wines, in spite of the £1 increase on each since last year.

The wine sales boom and the rush for champagne was reported by Victoria Wine, part of Allied Lyons and the biggest off-licence business in the country with more than 800 outlets.

Champagne sales are a little behind those of last Christmas but it is still outselling any other type of sparkling wine, Victoria Wine said. The chain has Moët and Chandon on sale at the promotional price of £8.69

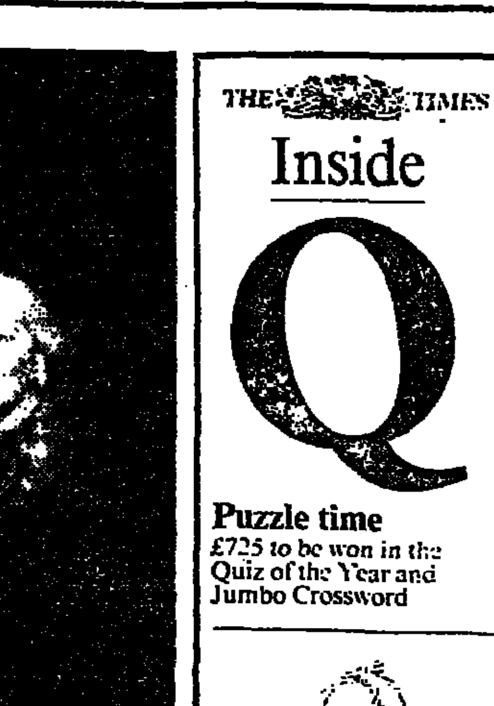
Waitrose, the supermarkets chain which is part of the John Lewis Partnership, said: "People are buying our own-label champagne by the case. That way it works out at £5.70 a bottle. No sooner are the shelves filled then they are emptied again."

The wine sales boom has been building up since the last Budget favoured wines on taxation and reduced prices.

The Post Office has carried more mail than it did last year this Christmas. As may as 105.4 million letters and cards were posted on Monday

THE TIMES

Inside



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£725 to be won in the Quiz of the Year and Jumbo Crossword



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Quote, unquote
Who said what to whom in 1984 . . . and why



The Body Quiz
A holiday game in two parts – hard and harder

NUM gets some control of assets to fight sequestration

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

National Union of Mineworkers; leaders won back yesterdy partial control of £2.7 million of assets moved to a Dublin bank to prevent the sequestration of the unions funds.

The High Court in London was told that a Dublin court had granted an order to unfreeze some of the money so that the union could continue a legal battle to regain control of all its £8 million assets.

News of the Dublin decision came as the National Coal Board announced that 11 men abandoned the 41-week-old strike yesterday, bringing the total during the past five days to 174. In all, 16,868 man have returned since the board began a determined "back to work" campaign on November 1: 64 per cent of the union's 189,000 members are on strike.

That falls short of the baord's target of getting a majority of men back to work by Christmas. It is now putting the finishing touches to fresh plans to woo more men back in the new year.

The union's success in Dublin was revealed yesterday by Mr Howard Page, counsel for the sequestrators, in the High Court.

He told Mr Justice Nicholls it was a most astonishing decision, which affectively gave the union access to funds hitherto frozen to finance a court challenge to avoid payment of a £200,000 fine for contempt and sequestration of its assets.

The court-appointed sequestrators, who may appeal against the Dublin court order, are having great difficulty in getting their hands on the assets. The judge was told yesterday that efforts to serve the union's head of administration, Mr Trevor Cave, in relation to £4.6 million transferred to a Luxembourg bank had failed. Leave was given to serve him by post.

Most pits in England and Wales will be closed for the Christmas holidays, but there is no sign of a truce between the strikers and the board. Militants fear that the board may try to move coal from the beleaguered pitheads; 26 out of 174 mines are completely strikebound.

However, the worst year in the board's 37-year history ended on a cautiously optimistic note as far as managers were concerned.

Priority work to get 82 more pits producing in the new year is under way, and the 66 producing collieries last week moved 600,000 tonnes, more than 100,000 tonnes above the October output level and probably enough to maintain the critical supply target to the power stations.

BR's hard-line on moving coal trains

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

British Rail managers who are becoming increasingly alarmed at losses, now running at £200 million, caused by the miners' strike, have given a warning that they intend to take a new hard line against workers refusting ,o take out coal trains.

An emergency meeting is to be held next month when management will lay out the precise impact of loss of traffic to road haulage, and the implications which will involve a cutback in investment for few locomotives and could lead to redundancies.

Union leaders recognize the difficulties caused, but are likely to resist any move to introduce disciplinary measures in an attempt to get coal moving again. BR estimates that £50 million of the freight losses can be directly attributed to railway workers obeying instructions not to take out coal trains.

If the pit strike goes into the spring total losses will amount to £250 million by April, destroying BR's hopes of breaking even this year.

Mr Henry Sanderson, director of the freight business, has said that business lost so far would normally keep 120 train crews in employment, thus raising the prospect of redundancies running into several hundred.

BR's warning was sent out this week to all local managers, who were asked to bring it to the notice of rail staff and impress the need for the "blacking" of coal to end.

This week unions threatened retaliatory action after management successfully moved two coal trains out of Coalville depot in Leicestershire.

But their reaction to what they see as "strike breaking", which is to be discussed at a meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen and train drivers' union Aslef, probably on January 7, could be more mute in view of the BR's determination to reduce losses.

Management has made clear that action to hault losses has to be taken quickly. There is a danger that the annual pay negotiations will become embroiled in the dispute.

Miners in assault case lose their jobs

Four North Staffordshire miners cleared of assault were told by the NCB yesterday that they will not get their jobs back.

The men were dismissed in September after being arrested outside Hem Heath colliery at Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, and charged with assault causing actual bodily harm. They all denied the charge.

Mr David Wemyss, Mr Stan Edwards, Mr Brian McKean and Mr Keith Bolton had their case dismissed at Stoke crown court when the prosecution offered no evidence after they all agreed to be bound over for 12 months in the sum of £50.

● Toys worh more than £10,000 given from all parts of the UK and abroad will be handed over to the families of striking Nottinghamshire miners today. Nottingham women's miners support group said the response had been "unbelievable".

● Paul Weller, the pop singer, has given £9,000 on behalf of his group, The Style Council, to the Miners Families Christmas Appeal. Some £100,000 was raised in the past week after Mrs Glenys Kinnock, wife of the Labour leader, called for last-minute donations.

● Customs officials have interrupted a big handout of turkeys to 17,000 striking miners in north-east England. Lorryloads of chickens and turkeys form France were due to arrive yesterday at Murton miners' welfare hall, Co Durham, for distribution. An NUM spokesman said officials at Dover considered the lorryloads to be overweight but clearance had now been given.

● A miners' support group is reporting a Conservative council to the ombudsman after the authority refused permission for door-to-door collections. Dover council refused the permission because it feared names and addresses of those not donation would be compiled.

● Ukranian coal miners have given about £114,000 to a relief fund for striking miners, the Soviet news agency, Tass, said.

● Seven miners from Conisbrough, in South Yorkshire, have been charged in Lincoln with the theft of coal from the British Sugar Corporation factory in Bardney, Lincolnshire.

● More than two tonnes of toys for striking miners' children in Ayrshire were ferried from Northern Ireland on board a small fishing boat last night, together with large quantities of food given in Belfast.

● Police and working miners were greeted by pickets singing carols and wearing party hats at two South Wales pits yesterday.

NUM officials dressed up as Santa Claus and reindeer to serenade the 27 men going in to work at the Celynen South colliery in Gwent, scene of the worst picket line clashes in the coalfield. Toy plastic pigs were offered as presents to the 110 police on duty but none was accepted.

Photograph, page 3



Snug sheep: On the Craigdarroch estates, Moniaive, in Dumfries and Galloway sheep have a privileged winter ahead of them. They have been fitted with winter coats by their owner Mr Alex Sykes, above who claims it could be the start of a farming revolution.

Mr Sykes brought 500 of the synthetic polypropylene fabric coats from Australia, where they are widely used, last September. He has fitted out 100 of his flock already

"The British Wool Marketing Council has asked me to try to encouage other farmers to adopt the same practice," Mr Sykes said. "For the coats not only keep the sheep clean, they also keep them warm, which means they eat less."

It is not the first time British sheep have been well dressed: the Romans introduced coats of jute or linen. (Photograph: Robin Bryden).

Suspect's beating charge

A man arrested last Monday after a terrorist landmine explosion and the shooting dead of his companion by the police alleged yesterday that the Royal Ulster Constablulary tried to beat him to death.

He was giving evidence during the court appearance at Armagh of Aidan Grew, aged 28, formerly of Armagh, who has been living across the border in Dundalk.

Grew is accused of the attempted murder of seven Ulster Defence Regiment members, causing an explosion and possessing two automatic pistols. He was arrested after a RUC patrol shot dead John McIlvenna, 33, a senior Provisional IRA man and a long-time fugitive, moments after a landmine had been detonated underneath a UDR mobile patrol.

Grew was remanded in cu.tody yesterday.

● After a four-day search the RUC yesterday dragged from a small river near the border in co Fermanagh the body of a man, who is expected to be identified today as the Maze prison escaper and IRA cross-border raider Kieran Gerard Fleming.

● Police in Dublin have confirmed a report that the Provisional IRA is now believed to have the capability to manufacture a powerful and stable military explosive, RDX, which is more powerful than commercial gelignite and home-made mixtures.

● Ciaran McMorrow, aged 34, once the most wanted terrorist suspect in Britain and still on Scotland Yard's "wanted" list, is being realeased early from jail by the Irish Government today.

£700m aid error in council grant report

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The Government admitted yesterday that state grant available to councils had accidentally been inflated by almost £700 million in an official report.

It was the latest of several embarrassments that have dogged Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, during the annual ritual of erecting a financial framework in which local government can operate next year.

The report said that councils were entitled to almost £8,962 million next year instead of the £8,263 million which they could actually claim.

The mistake came only a few days after another part of Mr Jenkin's municipal policy was condemned as "voodoo economics" by Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak.

Mr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on local government, said that the mistake in the report was "a further blunder by Patrick Jenkin" and "yet more evidence of the shambles in the Department of the Environment".

Department staff tried to play down the incident, saying first that there had been "misprints" and later "an incorrect calculation at the drafting stage". But the department clearly took a serious view because after consulting lawyers it hastily withdrew the first version of the report and quietly laid a corrected one before Parliament.

The legal status of the incorrect document might have left ministers open to court action from councils to claim a share of the £700 million that had been written in by mistake.

"A major error has been made which would have resulted in local authorities receiving nearly £700 million more block grant than was intended", Mr Cunningham said.

The department retorted that no payment would have been made because correct figures were used elsewhere in the report. It had not worked out the cost of issuing the new document, and did not know if people who had bought the original version for £6.10 would be entitled to free copies of the new one.

While Mr Jenkin's officials corrected the £700 million windfall, two Labour-led councils were given leave in the High Court to challenge his calculation of their grant entitlements. Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire county councils have been caught by an obscure clause at the back of the report which was corrected yesterday.

Their claim has nothing to do with the £700 million mistake. It concerns a complicated trigger mechanism which can lead to a heavy loss of grant next year as a penalty for spending slightly above a limit fixed by Mr Jenkin this year.

The councils are annoyed because they are caught although their spending is below the level which would make them liable for rate-capping.

Mr Alan Fletcher, QC, said in court that the Government's formulae for fixing Nottinghamshire's spending target did not make sense.

Steelworks may lose 800 jobs

The British Steel Corporation's Scunthorpe works is likely to shed 800 jobs in the new year, union leaders at the works have been told.

The platemill, which employs 600, is already taking a three-week Christmas break because of lack of orders. Now union leaders have been told that the Corporation hopes to replace it with a modern mill employing far fewer people.

The Corporation has said that the new mill would be a partnership between BSC and a private steelmaker. The present mill is unable to handle demand for thin plates.

BSC is also to impose a deadline for the loss of 200 jobs contained in a previous agreement not yet implemented.

The Scunthorpe works at present employs 6,800, compared with 22,000 six years ago. It is losing £1.25 million a week as a result of the miners' strike.

It is having to obtain its coal requirement of 40,000 tons a week from wharves on the Trent, and lorry convoys are bringing iron ore from the bulk terminal at Immingham, after a blacking in support of the miners imposed by the train drivers' union Aslef, six months ago.

In line with a national agreement, 2,300 Scunthorpe craft workers have been offered a rise of 3.25 per cent from the new year, plus a further 2 per cent if they sign a local productivity agreement.

Leaders of the craft unions are angry that the Corporation has refused to show them full details of the agreement before January 16.

Big holiday shutdown for British industry

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

Britain's manufacturing industry closed down last night for a holiday of at least 11 days, but many employers will expect workers to return to a new year of increased productivity and competitiveness.

With the economic recovery showing distinct signs of patchiness, and manufacturers still unsure of the strength of domestic markets, the Confederation of British Industry has recently been conspicuous for its lack of prospects.

While the CBI is still predicting a growth in the gross domestic product next year of more than 1 per cent on the 1984 figure, the miners' dispute is casting a deep shadow over industry and many business leaders fear the conflict will have long-lasting effects on the nation's confidence.

CBI leaders are certain to start 1985 by reiterating their call for greater investment in the nation's infrastructure; roads, railways, sewers and bridges – and by emphasizing to the government their concern that indusrial investment is likely to fall because of taxation policies.

One of the main elements in the CBI's Budget representations, to be unveiled at the end of January, is criticism of the changes in capital allowances which, it will say, will cause an investment famine in 1986 and do nothing to reduce unemployment.

According to the results of the CBI's December industrial trends survey, which covered more than 1,500 manufacturing companies, 30 per cent expect their output to go up in the first four months of 1985, and 12 per cent expect a decline, while most (58 per cent) said production would remain at present levels.

Few companies are having extended holidays over the Christmas period, and the time off is being deducted from employees' annual leave entitlements. However, most manufacturers, particularly those in continuous process industries, consider it too expensive to open their factories for only one or two days at a time.

The building industry, affected by the seasonal factors of short days and poor weather, will have the longest holiday Civil engineering companies are expected to stay closed until at least Janurary 6.

Most other companies will not open for business until January 2, although some, such as the glass container industry, will continue working until Christmas Eve. Most of the retail and commercial sector will be open for business next Thursday and Friday

£93m grant by EEC to create jobs

From Ian Murray Brussels

The unemployed from three of Britain's most depressed industries are to be given £93 million by the European Community for job creation schemes.

The Community's regional fund yesterday allocated £63 million to help in the textile closure areas in West Yorkshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester. A further £20 million goes to the run-down steel areas of Scotland, the north of England and South Wales. The remaining £10 million is earmarked for shipbuilding workers on the Clyde, Tyneside, and Merseyside and in Belfast to help them to find new work.

The money is meant to be spent on helping new small companies to set up in business. Some of it is to go on consultancy services and for risk capital.

The grants are on top of normal aid from the regional and social funds, and will help to finance five-year government programmes.

The funds will be divided between investments in old and disused buildings, and software.

Rich and poor in Silicon Glen

By Paul Valleley

Just outside the Scottish new town of Glenrothes stand two large concrete blocks. Close to they resemble half-finished multi-storey car parks, but from a distance they stand like the gravestones for the region's declining coal industry.

They are the pit towers of Rothes colliery into which the National Coal Board poured £20 million during the late 1950s and early 1960s before this great white hope of the Fife coalfield turned into its great white elephant.

They are made of pre-tensed concrete. Like so many other coal industry institutions, their demolition could be highly dangerous.

The new town was built to house the workers of the colliery. But because of unforeseen geological problems it never produced an ounce of coal.

Today, Glenrothes lies at the heart of "Silicon Glen", the microtechnology industry which has brought 26 new companies and £318 million of multi-national investment to Fife in the past five years.

The region's 6,000 miners compare with 9,000 men and women working in electronics.

The workers of the burgeoning and declining industries live side by side in towns and villages near by, such as Lochgelly. Christmas and new year offer very different prospects to the two groups.

Yesterday, the Lochgelly National Union of Mineworkers' strike centre served the final hot midday meal before the holiday. On Thursday, 200 strikers queued, silent and unsmiling, to collect a plastic carrier bag of groceries which, along with a Christmas chicken donated by a print union, will have to tide them over until the soup kitchen reopens.

"It will be a pretty dismal Christmas for most of the lads", said Mr Johnny Bell, an electrician from the Castlehill pit, who was doling out two tattered £1 notes to each striker with children for stocking fillers.

"It won't buy much, but I've already got some presents for my kids," Mrs Shonagh Corrigan said. "I cashed in my assurance policies and that gave me enough to buy some presents and pay some bills." She lost more than £700 by their early surrender.

"There is a lot less food around than usual and no coal at all. Heating is going to be a real problem," Mr Bell said "As for new year, there will not be much alcohol about. Many of the lads say they are going to go to bed before midnight this year."

His next door neighbour, however, will celebrate in style. "She is an electronics worker. We see her bringing in the presents, the food and the drink."

The NUM strike secretary, Mr George Erskine, is sanguine about such situations. "Jealousy is a human reaction, but the electronics industry offers no long-term employment alternatives to miners; its workforce is largely female and part-time.

"There is no doubt that people here are fed up with the strike. But their resolution to carry on with it is as strong as ever; perhaps stronger, for they have already lost too much to admit defeat now. They have gone through the pain barrier." Most of them are quite prepared to go on until next new year."

Witty judge retires from 'madhouse'

Lord Justice Eveleigh: 40 years in the law.

Lord Justice Eveleigh, aged 67, who retired yesterday after 16 years as a judge, told a crowded Court of Appeal of the day when his ego was "well and truly deflated," soon after being appointed to the High Court.

"A woman burst through the court door, looked at me and shouted: 'You are a blithering old idiot'. It was hardly fair because I was only just 50.

"I was about to ask her how she knew when the usher turned to me and said: 'Keep quiet!' I thought I was in a madhouse and wondered who was in charge."

Lord Justice Eveleigh said that the usher went to the woman and stared at her and she backed slowly through the door.

The usher told him later: "I do apologize my Lord, but if you had opened your mouth all hell would have broken loose".

"This was just one of the many occasions I have been grateful to the ushers in this building."

Lord Justice Eveleigh, noted as one of the legal world's most witty after-dinner speakers, had his retirement noted in the official Court List yesterday in a rare piece of dry legal humour as "In re Lord Justice Eveleigh Ex parte the Court of Appeal."

Tributes to the Lord Justice's 40 years in the legal profession were made by the Solicitor General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls.

Lord Justice Eveleigh, who became a Court of Appeal judge in 1977, was one of the three judges who ruled on Thursday that doctors must not prescribe the contraceptive pill to girls under 16 without their parents' consent.

Eton appoints RC chaplain

Father Peter Knott, father superior of the Farm Street Jesuit Church in London, is the new Roman Catholic chaplain to Eton College. His appointment will be on a part-time basis.

A college spokesman yesterday denied that Father Knott could be the first permanent Catholic chaplain at Eton since the Reformation. "He will be based in the local parish of Farnham Royal and may occasionally stay overnight

Dearer smoking

Gallaher, whose brands include Benson and Hedges and Silk Cut, is raising cigarette prices by 2p for a packet of 20, from January 23. Its tobacco and cigars will also cost more.

Police report on Murrell death for Home Office

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A report on investigations into the death of Miss Hilda Murrell, alleged this week to have been killed by blundering British intelligence officers, is on its way to the Home Office, a spokesman for West Mercia Police said yesterday.

The allegation was made in the Commons on Thursday by Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, who claimed that Miss Murrell, aged 78, died after interrupting a search of her home in Shrewsbury for official material relating to the sinking of the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano.

Miss Murrell, the aunt of Commander Robert Green, a senior naval officer who held a day position in naval intelligence during the Falklands War, was also a strong anti-nuclear campaigner.

Her body was found last March about six miles from her home, which showed the signs of a struggle and a search. Witnesses said later that they had seen her car being driven by a man, who had something bundled in the vehicle.

West Marcia Police have said that they believed the murder occurred during a criminal burglary, but yesterday a spokesman said there had not been any pattern of burglaries in the area at the time of Miss Murrell's death, nor any other burglary which matched incidents at her home.

The spokesman said that the only item known to be missing was £50 in cash, withdrawn from the bank by Miss Murrell on the day she died. No sign of forced entry had been found, and this led police to believe the assailant followed the woman into her home, or used a rear entrance which she sometimes left unsecured.

Rail disruption for weeks after tunnel fire

Rail services between Manchester and Bradford are likely to be disrupted for weeks as a result of a fire in the Summit tunnel under the Pennines.

The two-mile tunnel is blocked by the charred remains of the fuel tanker train which burned until lunchtime yesterday, and British Rail said: "It will probably be after Christmas before we start shifting the wreckage. Nothing definite will happen until the new year as far as alternative services are concerned."

Buses will continue to carry passengers between Rochdale and Todmorden until alternative routes are in operation.

Greater Manchester fire service said: "The fire was put out at lunchtime yesterday.

First reports indicated that the tunnel structure was sound after the fire.

Fifty families moved out during the alert have returned home.

MP attacks guidelines to Special Branch

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Home Office guidelines on the Special Branch were criticized yesterday by Mr John Prescott, Labour empolyment spokesman as a threat to trade unionists.

In a letter to Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, he demands a definition of "subversive," saying that some government ministers judge, and treat trade unionists as "the enemy within."

Mr Prescott's letter coincides with mounting anger among Labour MPs who see the guidelines as confirmation that the Special Branch spies on pickets and orginzations in Britain.

A Home Office statement says one of the Special Branch's main jobs is to "gather information about threats to public order".

Such information would enable it to assess whether marches, demonstration and pickets posed any threat to public order.

The guidelines point out that the Special Brnach assists the security servie in "defending the realm against attemps at espionage or sabotage or from the actions of persons and orgainizations which may be judged subversive to the state".

Mr Prescott asked Mr Brittan whether the Home Office allowed the Special Branch to make political judgement about subersives involved inindustrial activity.

He said be was aware of Special Branch members' photographing of disputes and picketing, recording of conversations and producing reports on trade unionists' movements.

The guidelines also led to pressure for more accountability. Mr Clive Soley, Labour home affairs spokesman, said they must be "deeply disturbing to anyone concerned with the preservation of democracy." There was an urgent need for a review of the way the Special Branch and Secret Service were controlled.

The National Council for Civil Liberties said in a statement that the "ambiguous guidelines" showed the need for immediate legislation on the use of surveillance devices and to provide parliamentary scrutiny of Special Branch activities.

The guidelines give strict instructions about the type of information that should be collected and say care should be taken to ensure "only necessary and relevant" information is recorded. Details not clearly needed for the Special Branch's activities should be destroyed.

Architects 'earn less than other professions'

By Charles Knevitt, Architecture Correspondent

Architects earn less than people in other professions, such as medicine and accountancy, according to a survey by Mr Dave Leggett, economic research officer of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Lifetime earnings (that is, over a 35-year period) for architects in the private sector were estimated in 1980-81 at just under £340,000 while hospital consultants earned more than £616,000.

Private architects earned 55 per cent of what a consultant would get, and 60 per cent of a general practitioner's income.

Figures for 1983 showed architects behind electrical, civil, mechanical and structural engineers, although they still think of themselves as "leaders of the building team".

LIFETIME EARNINGS

Hospital consultant	£616,140
General practitioner	£558,000
Chartered accountant	£532,735
General dental practitioner	£507,500
Personnel manager	£443,590
Architect (private)	£339,715
Architect (public)	£338,885

Lloyd Webber and Heath in charity concert

Mr Edward Heath is to team up with Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer, to raise money for children's homes.

The former prime minister is to conduct part of a new work by the composer of *Evita* at a carol concert on Sunday.

Sarah Brightman, the singer and wife of Mr Lloyd Webber, will take a solo part in a section of her husband's *Requiem Mass for Pie Jesu*

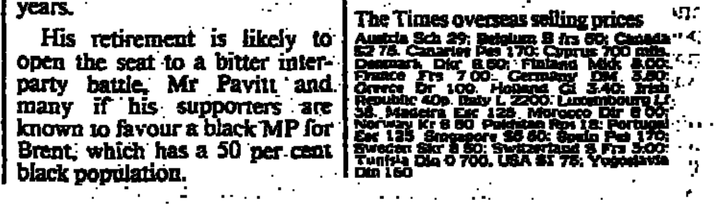
The concert is at Broadstairs, Kent,

Laurie Pavitt to retire at next election

The Labour MP, Mr Laurie Pavitt, has announced that he will be retiring from his Brent South seat in north-west London at the next general election.

Mr Pavitt, aged 70, has served the area as an MP for 25 years.

His retirement is likely to open the seat to a bitter inter-party battle, Mr Pavitt and many if his supporters are known to favour a black MP for Brent, which has a 50 per cent black population.



The Times overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 29; Belgium B frs 60; Canada $2 75. Canaries Pes 170; Cyprus 700 mils. Denmark Dkr 8.60; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7 00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100. Holland Gl 3.40; Irish Republic 40p. Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 38. Madeira Esc 125. Morocco Dir 8 00; Norway Kr 8 60 Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 135 Singapore $5 80; Spain Pes 170; Sweden Skr 8 50; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0 700. USA $1 75; Yugoslavia Din 160

Miners' strike duties cut number of police drink-driving patrols

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

There will be fewer police patrols concentrating on drink-driving offences this Christmas because of the large number of officers on special duties because of the miners' strike.

Most will be withdrawn next week, when working collieries will be closed, but they have already spent such long periods away from their families that arrangements are being made for as many as possible to have Christmas leave.

As a result some police forces will not be able to run special anti-drink campaigns this year and those with campaigns are playing down the enforcement role of the police.

Derbyshire Police, who started anti-drink patrols in 1978, have decided to abandon them "for the time being". The official explanation is that after seven years Derbyshire motorists have got the message.

Senior offices admit privately, however, that the extra duties in the miners' dispute have put a great strain on manpower. This year the mounting crime rate is being given higher priority than drunken driving.

Leicestershire Police said: "We shall not have as many traffic patrols as last year to spare for a drink-driving campaign and that reflects to some extent the number of officers on duty in the coalfields."

Warwickshire Police said that they would not be having "the same purge" as in previous years.

All three Yorkshire police forces (North, South and West) are not running special anti-drink campaigns. Only normal mobile patrols will be used.

A spokesman for West Yorkshire Police said: "We mounted special campaigns in the past, but not every year and always dependent on the accident rate."

A number of chief constables are supplementing the Department of Transport's controversial "stay low" posters with their own hard-hitting versions such as Lancashire's "drive alive into 1985".

Their number includes Mr Roger Birch, Chief Constable of Sussex. In his role as chairman of the traffic committee of the Association of Chief Constables he accompanied Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, at the press conference which launched the "stay low" campaign.

But he has also issued thousands of his own posters showing a disconsolate driver being given a breath test and the words: "Think how good you'll feel if the test is negative – and so will we."

His special patrols have already breath tested 598 drivers and arrested 190 of them for giving a positive reading or refusing to take a breath test – an increase of about ten per cent on the same period last year.

In Scotland, Strathclyde Police are stepping up mobile and foot patrols over Christmas and the new year to deter drunken driving.

The Department of Transport said: "The more we are attacked and the more the campaign is talked about in controversial terms the better we like it. It makes headlines and that means it has a better chance of sticking in people's minds when they are driving this Christmas".

Chalker defends her 'stay low' campaign

The Government's controversial "stay low" campaign against Christmas drink-driving was defended yesterday by the Minister of State for Transport, Mrs Lynda Chalker, as "one of the most powerful" ever held.

In a Commons debate she hit back at critics, such as the Automobile Association and the British Medical Association, which claimed that the campaign could encourage drinking.

She told MPs that the stark warning never to drink and drive "is just the message that turns off that target audience of younger people".

Mrs Chalker attacked criticisms that the campaign "lacked punch". It had been aimed particularly at young people, who were inexperienced as drivers and with alcohol.

"Every bit of evidence we have indicates that to adopt a heavy-handed, authoritarian approach just produces an immediate switch-off."

Mrs Chalker told Independent Radio News that the full weight of the law, including six months' imprisonment, should be used to punish motorists convicted of the worst offences of drinking and driving.

Parliament, page 4

Fears over Intoximeter ruling

By David Nicholson-Lord

Fears that police forces may refuse to disclose Intoximeter records to motorists disputing drunken driving charges were raised after the High Court ruled yesterday that drivers had no right to see them.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court said any general challenge to the Lion Intoximeter 3000's reliability must be made to the Home Secretary, not to the courts.

The decision is regarded as setting an important precedent in the controversy over the machine. It has been an approved device since April 1983.

Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice Glidewell said in a reserved judgement that while the Intoximeter retained this classification it was "wholly immaterial" to challenge its general reliability in individual prosecutions.

The ruling was made on the two cases in which Lincolnshire police and Dr Paul Williams, marketing director of Lion Laboratories, contested witnesses summonses requiring them to produce documents including the Intoximeter log, service repair reports and test records.

Defence lawyers yesterday said the legal questions raised were of fundamental importance and an appeal to the House of Lords was likely.

Mr Alan Beavan, a barrister specializing in cases involving the Intoximeter, said the decisions meant it was now "exceedingly difficult" to challenge the reliability of a specific Intoximeter unless the difference between the two readings on the print-out was more than 10 per cent of the lower reading.

Practices on the released Intoximeter documents vary widely among police forces, but it is feared that those with "liberal" policies, such as the Metropolitan Police which disclose records on request, may now stop doing so to reduce the expense and administrative time involved.

The judges said it was up to police forces to consider whether a more uniform practice was desirable and whether, in the light of the Metropolitan Police experience, a policy of voluntary disclosure should be more widely adopted.

But they added: "If there are those who have reason to believe that Lion Intoximeter 3000 devices are generally unreliable, they are, in truth, saying that they should never have received the approval of the Secretary of State . . . They should therefore address their representations to the Secretary of State."

The first application to quash the witness summons involved Mr Wayne Goodacre, of Boston, Lincolnshire, who is to appear before magistrates in Skegness accused of driving with excess alcohol in his blood. The second involved Mr Denis Dicks, a lorry driver, who is appealing against conviction by a Manchester Court last January.

The judges said the defence attempts were misuse of the witness summons procedure. Defence lawyers must rely upon the prosecution to disclose material which might help the defence.

Duke's plea on selfish developers

The world can no longer afford to ignore the serious consequences of thoughtless and selfish development, according to the Duke of Edinburgh, president of the World Wildlife Fund.

"It is all too easy to see development as the solution of all the world's social and economic problems", he says in the fund's yearbook, published yesterday.

"Science and technology can indeed solve many problems, but they cannot replace the exploited forests, the eroded land, the silted rivers, the polluted reefs, the drained wetlands, or the rapidly disappearing genetic resources of plant and animal species integral to the life cycle on which humanity depends."

Since its formation in 1961 the fund has raised more than 85 million dollars (£72 million), and although the sum is small compared with the needs of conservation, it has made a much bigger impact than the figure suggests, he says.

"Even so, there are all too many opportunities we cannot grasp simply through lack of resource. I hope the example of what can be done will encourage people to help us to do even better."

£600 fine in Peregrine falcon case

A man who tried to sell three Peregrine falcon chicks, an endangered wild bird, was fined £600 at Stirling Sheriff Court yesterday.

Ronald Bruce, aged 25, of Harrowhill, Wick, Caithness, was fined £150 on each of three charges of having the chicks and attempting to sell them. For possessing unregistered, unringed or unmarked birds he was fined £150.

Bruce pleaded guilty to the offences, which were committed on June 4 this year, contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Affair with girl offset in divorce settlement

A wealthy accountant's affair with his step-daughter's friend aged 16, should not be counted against him when assessing the divorce settlement to his former wife, a judge ruled yesterday.

The affair was balanced out by the behaviour of the former wife who, during a visit to Cyprus after a course of treatment for alcoholism, committed adultery with two or three men at her hotel, Mr Justice Balcombe said.

The judge said that the wife, in the end, had filed for divorce, claiming that her husband's "besotted" behaviour with the teenage girl, who had since had his baby and now lived abroad with him, was too much to tolerate.

But, in June this year, the husband was granted a divorce decree because of his wife's adultery in Cyprus.

Originally the couple were neighbours in a wealthy stockbroker area of the south of England, he said. They were thrown together and married, after their respective first husband and wife went off together.

The judgement in the Family Division of the of the High Court in London came after a two-week hearing in closed court over how much the wife should receive as a divorce settlement. The ruling was given in public because of legal points raised in the case, but the parties must not be identified.

Mr Justice Balcombe ruled that the husband, aged 45, who has assets of around £250,000, must pay £37,500 to his former wife, aged 47, who has assets of some £80,000. He had estimated the cost of her "reasonable needs" in the future at £50,000 and had cut them by 25 per cent, because the marriage had lasted only four years and because the husband had paid £3,000 off one of her debts.

Under recently introduced divorce laws, courts have to take into account the behaviour of the parties when assessing terms of settlement after divorce.



Close harmony: Police officers and miners' pickets singing Christmas carols early yesterday at Whitemoor mine in the Selby coalfield, North Yorkshire. The miners, in fancy dress, exchanged their caps for policemen's helmets after they invited about 20 officers to join in. One policeman said: "It was a nice gesture".

Jailed sex offender hired by playgroup

A man with convictions for sexual offences against children was employed as a voluntary helper at two playgroups after his release from jail, Knightsbridge Crown Court was told yesterday. Six weeks later he sexually assaulted a girl aged four in the lavatory.

Judge Pownall was told that Dennis Parsons, aged 40, would not have been taken on if Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council's social services department had made a routine check with Scotland Yard's juvenile bureau.

Parsons, who was jailed for six years for indecent assault and gross indecency, told the co-ordinator of Long ridge Road under fives resource centre in Earls Court, West London, that he wanted a worthwhile job.

Miss Kim Salariya for the prosecution, said: "When the play centre checked with the social services they were informed that nothing detrimental was known about the defendant."

The co-ordinator, Miss Miranda Boylan, said: "This centre is a drop-in centre, which means children remain the responsibility of their parents. Since the assault we have reviewed our procedures for taking volunteers."

Parsons also worked at the Warwick playgroup. Both groups are run by the Westway nursery association.

Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, will underline the duty of probation officers to prevent child sex offenders having contact with children.

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, said yesterday that guidance issued in 1963 made it clear that officers should disclose relevant character and personality details when recommending ex-offenders for employment. That would be emphasized for sex offenders.

Miss Salariya told the court that the assaulted girl "told her mother she had played doctors and nurses with the defendant many times".

In 1978, Parsons was jailed for six months; in 1979, he was sentenced to six months, suspended for two years, for indecently assaulting a girl aged three. In 1980, he was jailed for three years for six indecent assaults; 24 offences were taken into consideration. In 1982, he was convicted of indecently assaulting a girl aged 11 and in 1983 he was jailed for 18 months for indecently assaulting a child aged five.

Mr Edward Cross, for the defence, said that Parsons, who lived at Princess Beatrice Hostel, Finborough Road, Kensington, South-west London, hoped to do voluntary work with old people after his release.

Laws on food safety to be improved

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Wide-ranging powers to control the safety and quality of food, bringing existing legislation up to date with new products, distribution methods and eating habits, are proposed in a government consultative document.

It runs to 99 pages; and the Government is seeking comments from all sections of the industry and from consumer groups before deciding whether it will suffice to amend the present Acts or whether a new, comprehensive Act is needed.

Many of the present provisions have their origin in Nineteenth-century legislation, it points out. There has been little movement in the past 30 years, while technological developments in food manufacture and changes in distribution patterns have led to the wider use of food additives and the increasing complexity of modern manufactured food.

This in turn has added to the already complicated task of enforcement authorities and public analysts, the document says. The role of the retailer in the preparation and packaging of food has also diminished with the growth of prepacked foods, with implications for consumer protection and enforcement.

The document proposes that local authority inspectors should be empowered to seize and condemn a batch of food where it can be shown that a portion of it is likely to be unfit but cannot be easily identified. The cost of destruction of condemned food should be met by the owners.

Local authorities would be given a specific duty to inspect food businesses and would be able to apply for closure orders, including emergency orders, after a conviction for any offence under food hygiene regulations.

Ministers would be empowered to make regulations requiring manufacturers of certain classes of food to submit details for evaluation by expert committees of their safety and nutritional value. They would also be able to prohibit or restrict the marketing of such foods.

The document points to a loophole in the law on slaughtering hygiene, in that it does not cover birds or animals slaughtered on retailers' premises.

In an obvious reference to the sale of "green cap" unpasteurized milk, the document observes that milk is largely exempt from legislation covering other foodstuffs, and it suggests that there should be a "thorough debate" on the extent to which milk legislation should be brought within the general provisions of the food Acts.

M25 crash still being investigated

A full investigation is still being carried out into the M25 crash in which nine people were killed, a coroner was told yesterday.

The inquest on six men and one woman was opened in Oxted, Surrey but adjourned by the coroner, Lieutenant-Colonel George McEwan, to a date to be fixed. The inquest on the two other victims was opened in Guildford last week.

Police Constable Frank Chivers, the coroners officer told the court that Dr Stephen Cordner, Home Office pathologist, had already done a great deal of work to establish the victim's identities, but there was still more work to be done. He was satisfied that only nine people died.

"These people were identified by any means available. A lot of roundabout routes were used," he said.

The police were satisfied that the identifications had been completed, but the cause of death was still under investigation in every case.

The seven dead people were Gary Chilard, aged 29, of Holmside, Gillingham, Kent; William Macrae, age 38, of Canterbury Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex; John Everard, aged 55, of Anderson Close, Hendon, Hull; Ingerborg Long, aged 58, and Victor Bentley, aged 52, of Robert Road, Snodland, Kent; Philip Wooley, aged 35, of Henley Close Rye, Sussex, and Michael George, aged 37, of Kinswood, Maidstone, Kent.

Gillick and the pill

Schoolgirl mother's warning

Miss Caroline Hughes, now aged 17, was a fifth former at a Liverpool school when she became pregnant two years ago. Looking back she remembers it as "the worst time in my life".

She took her baby daughter to school with her when she sat her CSE examinations, and later to college, where she trained as a hairdresser.

Miss Hughes predicts many more girls will become teenage mothers as a result of Thursday's Court of Appeal ruling that prevents under-age girls from obtaining contraceptives or advice on contraception from doctors without consulting their parents.

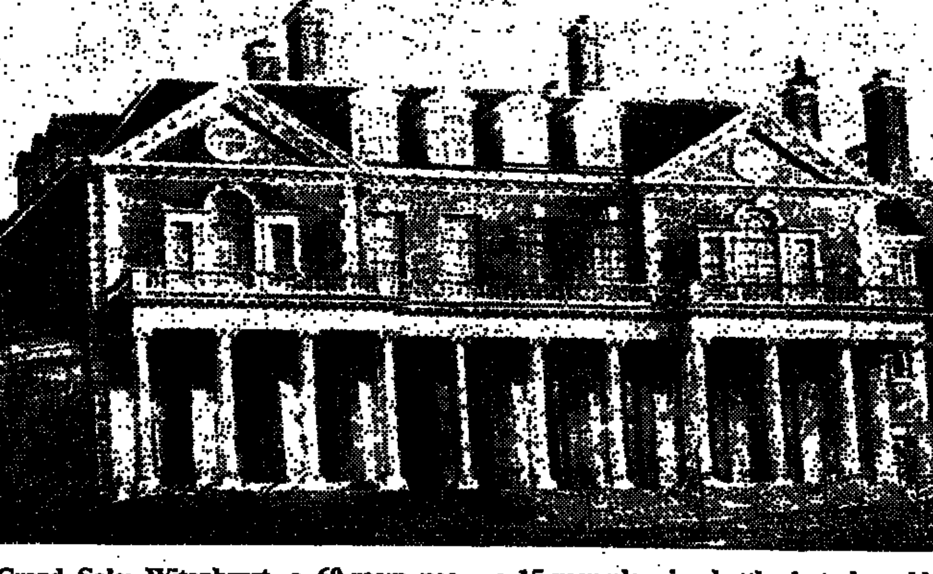
"I can think of a number of girls who will almost certainly become pregnant as a direct result of this decision," she said. "Many girls will just take the risk and not use any contraceptives until they reach 16, rather than have to approach their parents."

Miss Hughes said she was too shy to approach her own family doctor when she was younger: "I used to go and see him, meaning to discuss contraceptives, but I would lose courage and just go away with antibiotics."

She emphasized that if she known about family planning advisory centres, she would have asked them for counselling on contraceptives. She now takes her younger friends to these centres to prevent them from ending up in her situation. But she fears these girls will be discouraged from seeking advice, because they can no longer rely on thhe staff to keep their treatment confidential.

"However good your relationship is with your mother and father, your sexual life is too personal to discuss with them", she said. Since she has had the baby, her parents have been increasingly supportive, but when she was pregnant she shrank from asking them for help.

With her baby, Heather, crying in the background, Miss Hughes said she became pregnant by her's y boy friend.



Grand Sale: Witanhurst, a 60-room neo-Palladian mansion on Highgate West Hill, (above), after Buckingham Palace, one of London's largest houses, which has been sold for £7 million in a private deal. (Our Property Correspondent writes).

In addition, a scheme for 24 houses to be built on the slopes of the hill, the subject of a 15-year planning battle, is to be sold for more than £7 million. It is believed that the deals are the largest recorded for the area.

Noble Investment Corporation, Witanhurst's Arab owners refused to confirm the deal, but they have withdrawn an appeal relating to an earlier application to build 63 houses. (Photograph: John Voos).

Colonel, 91, fails in baronetcy claim

A retired colonel, aged 91, who claimed to be the rightful holder of the title of the 13th Baronet of Mochrum, failed in his appeal yesterday.

Colonel William Dunbar, a former Royal Artillery officer, of Herne Bay, Kent, petitioned the Lord Lyon King of Arms, who rules on matters of nobility in Scotland, earlier this year. But the Lord Lyon upheld the right of the present baronet, Sir Jean Dunbar, aged 66, an American former jockey, who lives in Florida. Colonel Dunbar then appealed to the Court of Session in Edinburgh but his claim was rejected.

Colonel Dunbar claimed his father was twice married, and that he was the son of the second marriage in 1890. However, his parents had to go through a second marriage ceremony in 1912 when it was discovered the first wife had not, in fact, died until 1910.

He claimed he was legitimized in England in 1959 and in Scotland from 1968, and that he succeeded to the Dunbar of Mochrum name in 1959, or at least in 1968. He argued that when Sir Jean's father succeeded in 1953, his succession was subject to the possibility that a nearer-born heir might emerge to deprive him of the title.

Lord Emslie, Lord President, who presided with Lord Cameron and Lord Grieve, said that Colonel Dunbar had failed to persuade him that he became the heir male on or after 1968.

Sir Jean was the eldest son and heir of the 12th baronet, Sir Adrian Dunbar. He succeeded Sir Richard, the colonel's half-brother, who was baronet for only two days before he died.

The destination of the title was such that the only person who could answer the description of the heir male of the first baronet was, and must be, the heir male of the last holder of the title. This was the essential feature, designed to secure a continuous and predestined line of succession by descent.

Colonel Dunbar could not have become the heir male in 1968. He was not the heir male of his father, and in 1953 he was not the heir male of his half-brother, the 11th baronet, whose heir male was Sir Adrian. If his half-brother had had no heir male in 1953, the title would have become extinct.

Lord Grieve, who agreed that the appeal should be rejected, said that for Colonel Dunbar to succeed in his claim, he had to find some provision in the Legitimation (Scotland) Act, 1968, which deemed him to have been legitimate since his birth.

Investment setback for cable television

By David Hewson

Britain's cable television industry has suffered a setback with the decision by one of its most technologically-advanced members to postpone its investment activities for six months.

Windsor Television is one of 11 companies given franchises to install new high-technology cable networks, but, like other cable operators, it has been badly affected by the decision to phase out capital allowances in the last Budget.

The problems of the cable industry, which was launched amid hopes of a boom in new television media, are now being investigated by the Information Technology Advisory Panel which advises the Prime Minister. Windsor's decision to shelve a decision on whether to spend £35 million to cable its area can only increase the mood of despondency among most cable operators.

A company letter to shareholders says: "We consider that in the interest of the community we should not start building our cable network until we're sure of going through to completion."

Windsor's backers, which include Currys, GEC, and Standard Life Assurance, will provide funds to keep the company in existence until a firm decision is made.

Mr Michael Davis, Windsor's managing director, said: "We have been on hold since shortly after the Government's decision to phase out capital allowances. Cable television and its interactive services system is a long-term investment and the Government's decision has made it very difficult for independent operators."

He was confident that Windsor would eventually go ahead with the cabling when the economic position was right.

The company was among the most advanced of the new franchises, and had signed an agreement with Mercury Communications to provide a telephone network service competing with British Telecom.

Dentist is jailed for indecent assaults

A Birmingham dentist was yesterday jailed for six months for indecently assaulting two women patients. Christopher Lock, aged 38, of the Old Rectory, Wishaw, near Birmingham, had denied the charges.

The jury at Birmingham Crown Court took three hours to return a unanimous verdict and Judge Ross sentenced Lock to 12 months jail with a direction that he serve only half the term.

Lock indecently assaulted Mrs Teresa Masterson, aged 25, in April 1981 and Miss Tracey Rainsford, aged 21, at his surgery in Gravelly Hill North, Birmingham, in October 1983.

The judge told Lock: "You plainly fell prey to suppressed psychological forces which are unknown to most normal men. To that extent you are to be pitied. You have given way to those forces and in so doing you have grossly betrayed the trust of your patients and the ethics of your profession."

Mr Bernard Hargrove, QC, for the defence, said: "After 20 years of study and practice as a dentist, his name will now inevitably be erased from the register and he will never practice again. That alone is an enormous punishment on himself and his family."

Ice rink hope at caravan site

Details of a proposed development costing between £15 million and £20 million by Arab Investments, based in London, of the Braithwaite Fold caravan site in Windermere, Cumbria, were disclosed yesterday.

The scheme designed by Mr Jack Jones, of Carlisle, would include a leisure centre with ice rink, swimming pool and squash courts, a 1,200-seat conference hall; a 139-boat marina; and room for about 1,000 guests and cars.

Four on turkey damage charge

Four people appeared before Grimsby magistrates yesterday accused of intending by destroying or damaging a frozen turkey to endanger life. They are also accused of stealing a thermometer.

Glen Elliott, aged 19, and Kenneth Coulbeck, aged 25, both of Grimsby, were remanded in custody for a week. A girl, aged 14 was granted bail by a judge in chambers and a second girl, aged 15 was remanded in care.

Clydeside rebel honoured

The Red flag flew over Glasgow City Chambers yesterday when the Freedom of the City was conferred on Harry McShane, aged 93, the last of the Clydeside rebels who staged rent strikes and workers' protests during the 1920s

There was no royal toast at the lunch and at the close of the ceremony instead of the National Anthem councillors and their guests sang "I belong to Glasgow".

Jenkins operation

Mr Roy Jenkins, MP, aged 64, former leader of the SDP, had a prostate operation in the Royal Free Hospital in London yesterday. A statement from his office said he would resume his normal duties after convalescing.

Racing request

Horse-racing could return to Lanark, Strathclyde, after an absence of five years. Clydesdale District Council will decide early in the new year on an application to stage one meeting at the course.

Electronic jobs

The Japanese electronics company Tabuchi, which makes components for microwave ovens and video recorders, is to set up a factory and create 150 jobs in the new year in Thornaby-on-Tees, Cleveland, where unemployment is 21 per cent.

Falklands trip

Twelve young people from Hertfordshire are to go on a £15,000 adventure expedition to the Falkland Islands at the end of January as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Medal Award scheme.

Implications of Ustinov's death

Arms talks stance may shift

From Richard Owen
Moscow

The death of Marshal Dmitry Ustinov raises key questions about Soviet arms control policy on the eve of next month's Geneva talks on the resumption of East-West arms talks. The talks will be between Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister and Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State.

Marshal Ustinov is believed to have been involved in disagreements in the Kremlin in September over arms reductions, and in the fall of Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the Chief of Staff and Marshal Ustinov's deputy.

Since the fall of Marshal Ogarkov three months ago there has been growing speculation over Marshal Ustinov's successor, with arguments for and against a military rather than civilian Minister of Defence.

Marshal Ustinov was a civilian rather than a professional soldier, having served as Stalin's munitions and Armaments Minister during the Second World War. He was seen as primarily a party men before donning marshal's uniform to take over the Defence Ministry. On the other hand, his predecessors, Marshal Grechko, Marshal Zhukov and Marshal Malinovsky, were all professional military men.

A military professional brings quite a different perspective to the questions of arms control and East-West relations", said a Kremlin-watcher. "A soldier tends to think first of all in terms of hard-won military equipment and budgets rather than in terms of political compromise."

When Marshal Ustinov failed to appear for the military parade marking the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution on November 7 his place was taken by one of his three deputies, Marshal Sergei Sokolov, a professional soldier. The two other deputy defence ministers, Marshal Viktor Kulikov, commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact forces and Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, Marshal Ogarkov's successor as Chief of Staff, are both professional army officers.

Putting a soldier in the Ministry of Defence again would be a clear signal to Washington that Moscow has the interests of the armed forces uppermost in mind.

On the other hand, there is a limited number of civilian candidates for the post. Mr Grigory Romanov, the 61-year-old Politburo member and Central Committee secretary in charge of defence industries, is an obvious choice for the leadership, and until he was brought to Moscow by Andropov last year, had spent most of his career in Leningrad rather than the Soviet capital, where the nerve-centre of the military-industrial complex is situated.

Leningrad is an important naval and industrial base, but has not traditionally proved an effective launching-pad for political power. Mr Romanov is also a man of small stature, a matter of no small importance to Soviet army and navy professionals, who expect their minister to have a commanding presence, as Marshal Ustinov undoubtedly had.

There is also the question of who the armed forces might back in a struggle to succeed President Chernenko – Mr Gorbachov or Mr Romanov.

The death of Marshal Ustinov has removed yet another member of the Stalin generation from the Politburo, thus helping to shift the internal balance of power in the leadership.

The Defence Industries Minister is Mr Pavel Finogenov, who was appointed in 1979, but he is a little known figure and not a leading party member.

Marshal Ustinov, by contrast, had been Defence Minister for eight years, and had held high office for over 40 years altogether. An associate of Brezhnev, Marshal Ustinov had latterly adopted the role of Kingmaker formerly assumed by Mikhail Suslov, the *éminence grise* of the Politburo, playing a key part in the election of Andropov after Brezhnev's death in 1982.

It was Marshal Ustinov who guaranteed armed forces support for Andropov and subsequently, in February this year, for Mr Chernenko. Marshal Ustinov, President Chernenko and Mr Gromyko combined the Defence Ministry, the party leadership and the Foreign Ministry in a hardline triumvirate which has only recently begun to seek a rapprochement with the West, largely through the efforts of President Chernenko, supported by Detente-minded younger Politburo members such as Mr Gorbachov.

Marshal Ustinov is credited with having thoroughly modernized Soviet military strategy, forcing generals to think in terms of a future war rather than re-playing the Second World War.

He also helped to develop Russia's military programme in space, and has been behind Moscow's alarm over American space-weapons testing. Politically, Marshal Ustinov maintained a granite-hard line against concessions to the West, threating time after time to match the United States weapon for weapon and vowing to retaliate overwhelmingly against any use of nuclear weapons by Western powers.

He threatened to hit American territory directly if Russia were attacked by American missiles based in Europe, including cruise and Pershing 2

Most analysts agree that, although he was a civilian by origin, he became so used to wearing a marshal's uniform that he was the champion of the military in the Politburo as much, if not more than, the Politburo's channel to the armed forces.

On the other hand, he never lost sight of the Marxist-Leninist principle that the military power is at all times subordinate to the civil power, and this is thought to have been at the heart of his epic struggle with the ambitious Marshal Ogarkov, the intellectual professional soldier subsequently suspected of "Bonapartist" ambition.

Three years ago Marshal Ogarkov published an article suggesting that Russia might win a nuclear war, which would amount to a "decisive conflict" between the social systems of East and West.

He was almost immediately slapped down by Marshal Ustinov, who in an article of his own declared, in accordance with party doctrine, that a nuclear war was unwinnable and would result in the annihilation of the entire planet.

He later clashed with Marshal Ogarkov over whether Russia should adopt high-technology conventional weapons, as Marshal Ogarkov believed, or continue to rely on tanks and heavy missiles.

The struggle over the succession to Marshal Ustinov is not expected to impede progress towards the Geneva talks but could affect the Soviet stance at the meeting, diplomats said yesterday. Sources pointed out that the Kremlin had had at least three months in which to consider the defence appointment.

In August, Marshal Ustinov delivered a hardline speech in Czechoslovakia, attacking "revanchism" in West Germany and warning the West not to try to drive a wedge between members of the Warsaw Pact.

That followed the warnings the previous year that Moscow would retaliate directly against American territory if it were attacked by American missiles based in Europe.

But Marshal Ustinov then failed to appear for the November 7 parade, with Marshal Sokolov taking the salute instead, and although messages signed in his name have appeared in *Red Star* and *Pravda*, few doubted that he had succumbed to illnesses which have plagued him for years, including, according to Moscow rumour, cancer of the liver.

Ustinov became Stalin's Minister [commissar] for Armaments in 1941 when he was only 33, having previously worked as an industrial manager. He did not enter the Politburo until the age of 67.

Obituary, page 10

● The 35th round of the world chess championship scheduled for yesterday was postponed until next Wednesday for "technical reasons".

The referee, the Yugoslav grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric, said the next game between Anatoly Karpov and Gary Kasparov would not be played either yesterday or next Monday because the Hall of Columns in Trade Union House here would be "occupied".

The Hall of Columns is used for the lying in state of deceased dignitaries.

● Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told Reuters yesterday that Marshal Ustinov had died on Thursday night. "We heard about it first thing this morning," he said.

When asked if Mr Gorbachov had known the news before leaving for Scotland yesterday he said: "He knew before he came to Edinburgh but decided to depart for Einburgh as planned."

● It was thought likely last night that Sir Iain Sutherland, the British Ambassador in Moscow, would represent the Government at Marshal Ustinov's funeral.



Marshal Ogarkov: "Bonapartist" ambitions

Gorbachov hails links with Britain

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

Mr Gorbachov said before leaving Edinburgh last night that the talks the delegation had held with Mrs Thatcher, members of the British Government and with political and business communities had been businesslike and friendly.

They had undoubtedly been useful, he said. The Russians left deeply convinced that a good beginning had been made to the continuation of the political dialogue between the two countries.

He added: "The Soviet delegation is leaving convinced that the same point of view is shared by the British side as well. We believe that in the complex tense situation in the world it is especially important to show goodwill, common sense and a strong sense of responsibility to realize that an arms race cannot and is incapable of ensuring security of any state.

"The most important thing is to build relations among states with different social and political systems on the basis of equality and with due account of the differences between them. This is the position of he Soviet Union."

Mr Gorbachov thanked Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, for receiving them. On behalf of the delegation he extended "best wishes of peace and prosperity to the people of Great Britain."

He added a word of thanks beyond the formal statement to the British press for what he described as their objective coverage of the visit and the meetings and discussions that had taken place. That had been an important contribution to the mutual understanding which was extremely important if they wanted to develop relations further.

Mr Younger said on behalf of the British Government that Mr Gorbachov's visit had been greatly appreciated: "We consider that it has been a very great success

"We are sure this can be developed in the years ahead with the greatest of good will. While frank exchanges on our differences are valuable, there is much common ground."

Leading article, page 9

Zia proclaims poll death blow to foes

From Our Correspondent, Islamabad

General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, said in a radio and television broadcast yesterday that Wednesday's referendum "dealt a death blow" to his opponents and all those cherishing alien ideologies in the country.

The Election Commission announced yesterday that General Zia was elected President by 97.71 per cent of the votes cast. It said that 60.7 per cent of an electorate of about 35 million turned out to vote, with only 316,918 votes cast against the general.

However, the referendum results have been challenged by the 11-party opposition alliance, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, which had urged the electorate to boycott the referendum.

In a 45-minute broadcast, President Zia paid tribute to those who helped him to win the referendum and so help him to pursue his Islamization programme during his new five-year term.

However, he did not spell out his actual political programme, nor did he give a date for the promised parliamentary elections. All he would say was that he would make an announcement after consultations

President Zia made an oblique reference to the need for political conciliation in the country

In conclusion the President announced a remission of sentence ranging from one to twelve months for convicted criminals. It is believed here that the gesture will not be extended to prisoners serving sentences for anti-state and anti-regime offences.

PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 21 1984

Chalker defends campaign

COMMONS

There was only one way to drive not just in the festive season but throughout the year, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, said in reply to a debate in the Commons on drinking and driving at Christmas. Her message to drivers was: "By all means have a good time, but do not get on to a motor cycle or behind the wheel of a car. Go home safely by public transport, by somebody else who does not take alcohol driving, or, if you cannot get there by either of these two means, by using your own feet".

The actual incidence of drinking and driving was not appreciably higher at Christmas time than at other times of the year. The threat posed by a drinking driver at any time of the day or night or at any time of the year was something that policies had got to take account of.

The last thing that would be right would be for the drink and drive campaign to become just part of the traditional background to the festive season. It was not enough just to go through the motions of condemning drinking and driving and leave it at that.

It was necessary to be ready to search for new approaches which persuaded people to think afresh about what drinking and driving involved and made them conscious that they should never put the two together.

She could not accept that this year's campaign lacked punch. It was important that what was said in the campaign was consistent with what was said by the law which did not involve a total prohibition on alcohol for drivers. A stark instruction never to drink and drive would be just the sort of message that this year's target audience of young first time drivers would dismiss as unreasonable and unrealistic.

Mr Keith Best (Ynys Mon, C), who initiated the debate, said some 1,200 people died every year in road accidents where drinking was a contributory factor. One third of drivers of cars and motor cycles who were killed had alcohol levels above the prescribed limit. Between 10pm and 4am that proportion was raised to a dramatic two-thirds.

There had been much controversy over the Department of Transport's campaign against drink-driving being described as the "stay low" campaign. It was important that it be stated clearly in the House that in order to be fully safe a person must not drink at all and drive. That had got to be the message.

The legal limit was 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood. But at 50 milligrams per 100 millilitres driving was impaired, and that was below the legal limit. At that level a person was three times more likely to have an accident than if he had had no alcohol whatsoever.

He was concerned about people being misled about the effects of products which it was claimed could reduce blood-alcohol levels. He referred to the canned soft drink Alcaway distrubuted by Five Swallows of Stansted, Essex which he said, was described as necessary for all those occasions when a person had consumed more alcohol then they intended.

The distributors expected to sell 400,000 cansf Alcaway before Christmas and next year some four million cans in Britain. It was nâive in the extreme to assume people would not use Alcaway in the belief that they would be safe to drive after drinking.

He understood the DHSS was looking carefully at this product to see whether it should be referred under the Medicines Act.

There seems (he said) to be no doubt whatsoever in the mind of the Department of Transport that no substance can actually artificially reduce blood-alcohol levels.

There was much more the Government could do in the form of educating people on the problems of drinking and driving and its effects.

Ultimately (he said) we need to change attitudes in this country. We need to ensure there is moral condemnation of the concept of drinking and driving.

Substitute frees Briton in Libya

Mr Malcolm Pike, who has been detained in Libya, is to be allowed home, Mr Timothy Renton, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, announced in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Renton said the return of Mr Pike's passport was "welcome news for the Christmas holiday".

It was a dramatic moment in the Commons. Mr Nicholas Baker, Conservative MP for Dorset North, made a plea for government action on behalf of Mr Pike, his constituent, who has been held responsible under Libyan law for the alleged tax liability of his employers, Loman Engineering.

Mr Renton, who was replying, suddenly announced: "I am happy to tell you that our consulate believes that Mr Pike's difficulties are gradually being resolved.

"Indeed I have just been passed a note that Mr Pike has now been able to leave Libya by arranging for a deputy to come and substitute for a while."

The announcement was immediately welcomed by Mr Baker who intervened to say: "The news you have given is very welcome indeed."

Signs of discord: Banner-waving protesters demonstrating against the Sino-British agreement on Hong Kong outside the press conference called by Mrs Thatcher to reassure the people of the colony that their opinions on the future constitution will be widely canvassed by Peking.

Red faces in Hong Kong

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

British officials are embarrassed by a remark made here yesterday by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

The Prime Minister told a press conference that she would be "astonished" if Sir Edward Youde, the Governor of Hong Kong were not given a place on the joint liaison group which is to monitor progress on the new Sino-British agreement on the territory's future. However the composition of the Chinese and British delegations has not been officially announced, and it is considered unlikely here that Sir Edward will be appointed to the group.

Each country is expected to nominate five officials. The group will sit part of the time in Hong Kong and at other times in London and Peking.

It is feared that it may be used by China to interfere in Hong Kong's affairs before the sovereignty returns to China in 1997.

Mrs Thatcher said the Chinese leaders had assured her they would solicit the opinion of the Hong Kong people on a wide basis

She fielded several hostile questions from local journalists at the press conference before she left for the United States to see President Reagan, she said Britain would have been "negligent" if it had not entered into the negotiations with China

China wanted the lifestyle of Hong Kong to continu under the agreement, she said. She believed the "overwhelming majority" of people in the territory were in favour

Thatcher's punishing world trip

Taking a schedule that would frighten more youthful travellers, Mrs Margaret Thatcher is managing to talk to several of the world's most powerful men on her eight-day pre-Christmas itinerary which encircles the world.

Sunday Dec 16
12.30 Greet Mr Gorbachov at Chequers
13.30 lunch
15.00 Meeting with Gorbachov
18.30 Return to Downing Street

Monday Dec 17
9.30 Meeting with Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdallah Aziz, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to United States
17.00 Leaves Heathrow for Peking

Tuesday Dec 18
Fueling stop at Bahrain
15.20 (Peking time) arrives in Peking

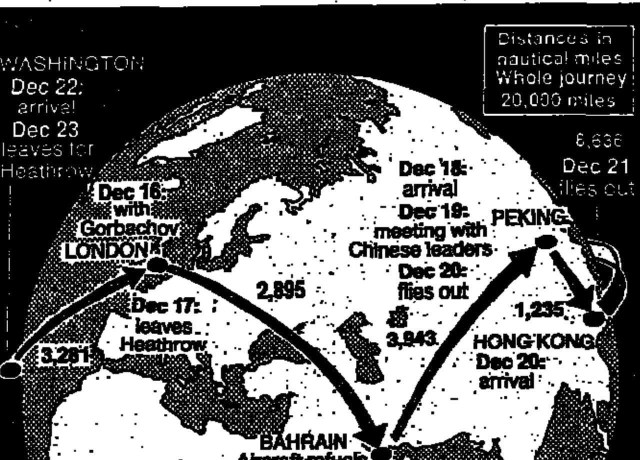
Wednesday Dec 19
9.10 Welcome at the Great Hall of the People by Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang, talks with Chinese leaders
11.00 Lunch with President Li Xiannian, talks with Hu Yao Bang, party's General-Secretary, and Deng Xiaoping, the elder statesman.
17.30 Signing of joint declaration, state banquet
23.05 Press conference.

Thursday, December 20
09.00: Leaves Peking for Hong Kong. 12.20: Arrives Hong Kong, lunch with local officials. 14.30: Visit to housing estate, reception at Government House, address to joint meeting of Legislative and Executive Councils. 20.00: Dinner at Government House.

Friday, December 21
08.10: Press conference. 10.00: Leaves for US.

Saturday, December 22 (scheduled)
22.00 (Washington time): Arrives at Andrews Air Force base. 09.00: Breakfast with Vice-President George Bush, helicopter flight to Camp David for lunch and talks with President Reagan. 14.10: Press conference at Andrews Air Force base. 15.00: Leaves for UK.

Sunday, December 21
02.55 (GMT): Arrives at Heathrow.



Two tankers hit as Iraq steps up Gulf attacks

A Liberian tanker was abandoned by its crew in the Gulf yesterday after being attacked 31 miles south of the Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island, Lloyds shipping service announced in London (Reuter reports).

Two crew members of the 52,661-ton tanker Magnolia were killed in the attack, the report said.

Iraq claimed that its planes hit "two large naval targets" in the Gulf yesterday.

The Norwegian supertanker Thorshavet, laden with 230,000 tonnes of Iranian oil, was abandoned by its crew after an Iraqi missile attack, shipping sources said.

The attack brought to 48 the number of large vessels confirmed hit in the Gulf this year. Five have been attacked since December 3 when Iraq broke a six-week lull in air strikes.

There were no immediate reports of casualties among the crew of 19 Norwegians and seven Spaniards.

A spokesman in Rotterdam for the Smit International salvage firm said one of its tugs was on its way to the stricken ship.

In London, marine insurance brokers said war risk insurance premiums for hulls of ships using Kharg Island had risen as much as 11 per cent this week and yesterday's strikes might push them higher.

New party launched in Brazil

From Patrick Knight
Sao Paulo

Brazil's Vice-President, Senhor Aureliano Chaves, has launched a new party, the Liberal Front Party (PFL). Composed mainly of politicians uncomfortable in the official Social Democratic Party (PDS), which is controlled by its presidential candidate, Senhor Paulo Maluf.

The PFL will be the third largest of Brazil's six political parties. It already has the support of ten senators, 60 deputies and three state governors. Leaders say this number will have doubled by the time of the party's first convention in late January.

Many politicians are delaying joining the PFL until after the electoral college meets on January 15 to choose the next President.

The new party, really a relaunch of the short-lived People's Party, of which the Democratic Alliance Presidential candidate, Senhor Tancredo Neves, was a leader, has said that it will defend the rights of the individual against the state. It will aim for a reduction in bureaucracy and will press for decentralization.

Supported by many bankers and businessmen, the PFL will be the party of private enterprise. It seems likely that the PDS, the political arm of the military-led governments in recent years, will veer increasingly to the right.

The PFL launch was attended by Senhor Neves; the new party has pledged its support for the Democratic Alliance candidate.

Levesque moves four in another Quebec shuffle

Ottawa. – The Premier of Quebec, Mr Rene Levesque has reshuffled his Cabinet for the fourth time in as many months while continuing to prepare for a crucial convention of his ruling party Parti Quebecois next month (John Best writes).

Back-benchers have been appointed to four newly-created portfolios and the responsibilities have been switched.

Mr Francois Grendon, the Regional Development Minister, becomes Minister of Education replacing Mr Yves Beruba.

Seven Ministers resigned last month in the upheaval after Mr Levesque's decision to abandon for the time being the party's goal of Quebec independence

Surprise release of religious leader in Sudan

By Carol Berger

The recognized leader of the largest religious group in northern Sudan has been released after 15 months' detention.

Mr Sadij El Mahdi, leader of the Ansar Muslim sect or "Mahdists", was released from Khartoum political prison with 14 supporters on Tuesday. All had been held without charge under the State Security Act since September, 1983.

They were detained after public criticism by El Mahdi of the imposition of Islamic or Sharia law by President Nimeir. Since then more than 44 amputations have been carried out, 16 of them involving the surgical amputation of a hand and a foot.

Both sides rest case in Sharon libel hearing

New York (Reuter) – A lawyer defending *Time* magazine against a $50 million (£31 million) libel suit brought by the former Israeli Defence Minister, Mr Ariel Sharon, rested his case yesterday without calling a single witness.

"We think we are ahead," Mr Paul Saunders said on the 20th day of the hearing. Earlier, the judge rejected his request for outright dismissal.

The move caught Mr Sharon's lawyer, Mr Milton Gould, by surprise and after lunch break he rested his case, saying he also was confident of winning. Judge Abraham Sofaer adjourned the trial to January 2, reserving the right to recall Mr Sharon to the stand.

The former general says a paragraph in a *Time* report libelled him by claiming he instigated the massacre of hundredds of Palestiniand by pro-Israeli Phalangists in Beirut in 1982.

The paragraph which *Time* said was based on a secret part of an official Israeli inquiry into the Sabra and Chatila massacres, said Mr Sharon discussed with Phalange leaders a need for revenge after the assassination of Bashir Gemayel, the Lebanese president-elect.

Mr Sharon and other top Israelis have said the secret section of the report by the Kahan Commission did not contain anything about revenge. The commission found Mr Sharon and three other military men were indirectly responsible for the massacre.

● JERUSALEM: Mr Sharon said that if he won the case he would use the money for a fund to fight "blood libels" against Jews or Israel anywhere in the world (Christopher Walker writes).

Speaking on his return to Tel Aviv after more than five weeks at the trial, he also pledged to meet all the expenses of the case, which would not cost the exchequer a single shekel.

Nine bodies found by Utah mine rescuers

Orangeville, Utah (AFP) – Rescue workers found the bodies of nine of the 27 people trapped in a coalmine fire near here, but were hopeful that 18 others may be alive in an underground air pocket.

The dead were found away from a chamber 2,500ft underground where the trapped people are believed to have taken refuge. Rescue teams were still working to drill an air hole to the chamber from an adjoining gallery.

Smoke and carbon dioxide from the fire are the main threats to the survivors. Earlier, the mining company said that air in the chamber could last for about two days.

The 20 miners and seven engineers, one of them a woman, were seeking to break a 24-hour coal extraction record when the fire broke out on Wednesday night.

Families flee poison cloud

Auckland (Reuter) – Clouds of poisonous smoke belched from a blazing Auckland chemical factory, seriously injuring an employee and forcing people living near by to flee from their homes.

A string of explosions at the Imperial Chemical Industries New Zealand factory in suburban Riverview set thousands of litres of toxic chemicals alight. Firemen brought it under control after three hours.

Ex-Nazi waits

New York (Reuter), – A former Nazi guard at Treblinka death camp is in custody here awaiting deportation. Fyodor Fedorenko, a 77-year-old retired factory worker, would be the first war crimes suspect to be deported by the US to the Soviet Union.

Agca plea

Rome, (Reuter), – Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk serving as life term for shooting the Pope, has asked Italy to grant him a pardon. In an interview published here, he said: "I have left behind me not only terrorism but every idea of violence."

Coat-tails exit

Marburg, West Germany (AP) – a 25-year-old East German escaped to the West hidden under the coats of about 50 pupils returning here from a bus trip.

Happy answer

Geneva – Swiss French-language television has had a last-minute change of mind about showing the erotic film *Emmanuelle* at 2am on New Year's Day. Instead it will screen *The Sound of Happiness*.

Five jailed

Paris (AFP) – Five Armenians charged with aiding and abetting the bombing in July last year at Orly Airport that killed eight people were jailed for terms ranging from 30 months to four years. A sixth was acquitted.

Calling the tune

Jakarta (Reuter) – Mass breakdancing will be banned in the Indonesian capital if it leads to breaches of the peace. The decision follows a disturbance at an amusement park last week when police fired tear gas to break up a contest.

Wrong spirit

Washington (AP) – Experts who detonated a mysterious package delivered to the Washington naval yard discovered that they had blown up two bottles of finest Russian vodka, a gift from a Soviet admiral. "Good stuff, too," said Vice-Admiral James Lyons, for whom the spirits were intended.

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Famine: Relief and despair

Southern Africa: Rains end 3-year drought north of the Limpopo

From Jan Raath, Harare

Gentle, soaking rains have fallen over much of southern Africa north of the Limpopo river recently, ending the drought that has wreaked havoc in the region in the past three years.

"This is going to be the best Christmas for farmers since 1981," Mr John Laurie, president of Zimbabwe's Commercial Farmers' Union said yesterday.

In Zambia, the rains have covered nearly all the country, including the southern areas which suffered badly last year. The mood there is reported to be equally buoyant.

The exceptions are Botswana, where almost no rain has fallen up until this week, and Mozambique where the depredations of the MNR guerrillas are likely to reduce the effects of the rains have had there to the merest subsistence cropping.

Farmers in northern Zimbabwe - the biggest agricultural producer in the region outside South Africa - a slightly larger area has been planted to maize than last year. Much of that crop failed but Mr Laurie estimated that with continuing good rains, commercial farmers, who produce about two-thirds of the national staple, would be able to produce enough for the country to feed itself and leave some for a strategic surplus.

He spoke of a dramatic recovery of the veld in the cattle-dominated Matabeleland provinces, where in the last season about 10,000 livestock died in dustbowl conditions.

An added boost to farmers' has been the lack of any serious guerrilla activity in the west. Security source says sightings are still being made, but an upturn in violence expected with the regrowth of bush cover has not materialized.

The reason for the rains is the return to the subcontinent of a broad band of wet weather which in the past three years has stuck to northern Zambia. Known as the inter-tropical convergence zone, it is the region's main rain bringer. It may yet save Botswana from another serious drought.

With elections due early next year, Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, will be as pleased as the farmers with the rain.

Dissatisfaction among voters with the high price of food and shortages are regarded as the most serious threat to his virtually certain re-election.

EEC: Crop yield down by 40%

From Ian Murray
Brussels

Harvests in the famine-stricken areas of Africa are likely to be as much as 40 per cent below normal next year, according to an EEC survey issued yesterday.

The calculations show that eight million people in Ethiopia are now affected by the famine, while the situation is increasingly desperate throughout the Sahel region and Mozambique. Civil war in Chad, Ethiopia and Mozambique are aggravating the situation.

The EEC believes that a total of 3,700,000 tons of cereals will be needed in Africa next year over and above the expected harvest. Two million tons of this are needed for emergency supplies before the next harvest

This figure assumes no more than 400 grammes of food per day for every person in need.

The Community has agreed financing for 1,200,000 tons of emergency aid for Africa next year

FAMINE CEREAL REQUIREMENTS

Country	Total need (Tons)	Emergency need (Tons)
Ethiopia	1,340,000	720,000
Mali	220,000	180,000
Montania	140,000	120,000
Niger	350,000	290,000
Chad	300 000	180,000
Sudan	1,000,000	480,000
Mozmbque	390,000	116,000*
TOTAL	3,740,000	2,086,000

(*) Estimated requirement over the next four months

These figures do not take into account the need in countries round the Sahara such as Burkina Faso where the Community now believes that a serious situation is developing.

UN: Five more emergency areas

From Zoriana Pysariwsky
New York

Representatives of United Nations relief agencies, donor countries and non-government organizations have been meeting in New York to work out a strategy for preventing hunger in parts of Africa where it threatens to reach Ethiopia's crisis proportions.

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, has identified five other African countries in need of emergency food aid: Chad, Mali, Mozambique, Burkina Faso and Sudan. He is hoping to inspire the same fervent public attention that the Ethiopian famine has drawn and mobilize the aid that then pours in.

Further down the scale 19 othe African countries face food shortages. The affected countries will need some 5.2 million tons of food aid in 1985. The transport system in Chad, Ethiopia and Mali still do not have the capacity to carry the emergency aid required, and extraordinary arrangements, including airlifts, will be needed for another 900,000 tons. The total figure is 2.7 million tons high than last year.

Aid committed at present amounts to only 3.7 million tone. In addition emergency resources required in the health field are estimated at £310 million.

By setting up programmes for next year, relief agencies, donors and the countries afflicted are trying to learn from the mistakes made in Ethiopia. A special UN co-ordinator has been assigned to organize round-table meetings so that products can be distributed to meet specific needs and at a pace that afflicted countries can handle.

Experts emphasize that famine coditions will be repeated unless individual agricultural rehabilitation schemes are designed. The Food and Agriculture Organzation is planning to call a series of donors' meetings to work towards helping countries to establish long-term strategies.

● ROME: Italy's Chamber of Deputies has approved the institution of a special commissioner aginst hunger, with emergency powers to spend 1,900 billion lira (about £850 million) mostly in the famine-struck countries of Africa (John Earle writes). Most of the funds are expected to come out of Italy's overseas aid budget, which has been steadily increasing from year to year and stands at 3,500 billion lira for 1985.

Britain to give £750,000 aid

The Government is to give a further £750,000 to help victims of the drought in Ethiopia, Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, said yesterday.

The Save the Children Fund, Christian Aid and War on Want will each receive £250,000 to provide food, transport, medical requirements and shelter for famine victims, including refugees in Sudan.

● EL GORDO JOY: Two boys of St Ildefonso's school in Madrid (above) turned thousands of Spaniards into peseta millionaires and a few into pound millionaires yesterday when they drew the winning numbers in Spain's annual colossal Christmas lottery (Harry Debelius writes).

Employees and customers of a savings bank in the north central city of Valladolid held all the shares of the first prize, known as "El Gordo" (the fat one) and it netted them a total of £63 million.

Lee ends campaign with threat to voters

From Stephen Taylor
Singapore

After a final tirade against the opposition and a warning to the electorate, Mr Lee Kuan Yew takes Singapore to the polls today for what he has said will be his last general election as Prime Minister.

Having kept in the background for much of the campaign, Mr Lee held a big rally and a press conference in the closing stages amid signs that opposition groups have forced his People's Action Party on to the defensive.

The PAP says it is still confident of securing all 79 seats in an enlarged Parliament, but its candidates have been obliged to uphold controversial policies such as the proposal to raise the age at which enforced savings can be withdrawn from the central provident fund.

School streaming and housing have also provided ammunition for opposition leaders suchas Mr Chiam See Tong of the Singapore Democratic Party and Mr Ben Jeyaretnam, leader of the Workers' Party. Either or both may win seats.

Regaining the Anson seat which Mr Jeyaretnam won at a by-election in 1981, thus becoming the first opposition MP in 17 years, has been central to the PAP campaign – and indeed to Mr Lee. In a clear warning to the constituency he said on Thursday that if the PAP candidate were rejected "then I say in Anson I need to re-examine the electorate".

Mr Lee had issued a warning already that the PAP would suspend grass-roots services in constituencies that returned opposition candidates, whom he characterized as "witless and irresponsible" when asked if this was not a threat he said: "It's as old as the hills. You don't believe that Mr Reagan is as kind to Democratic governors as to Republican governors, do you?"

The other dominant feature of the election has been youth. The 26 new PAP candidates taking the place of the retiring old guard have an average age of 37, including Brigadier Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister's son, whose personal appeal and easy manner in the campaign have done no harm to his prospects of succeeding his father.

The 215,000 Singaporeans who are voting for the first time are seen as the key to any significant swing. Products of the island's first affluent generation, they are a potential source of disaffection from the PAP's authoritarian style.

Political observers are suggesting that the opposition could win two seats. The taxi drivers, though, are predicting a PAP clean sweep.

The overall percentage vote, however, may be a better gauge of Singapore's mood. Less than 70 per cent (compared with 76 per cent in 1980) would represent a disappointing result for the PAP.

Sri Lanka conference peters out

From Donovan Moldrich
Colombo

The all-party conference on the problems of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority ended yesterday without agreement on any system for a devolution of power. The talks began in January. President Jayewardene told the conference that the proposals that had emerged for a restructured system of local government with provincial councils at the apex would be gazetted in legislative form for examination by the Supreme Court, which can direct that a referendum is required for any Bill or clauses in a Bill in conflict with the constitution.

The President said that once the views of the court were known he would decide on whether to hold a referendum or to seek a mandate in a general election. Hee would continue to hold discussions with all parties involved and would welcome representations in writing.

After the conference, Mr Appapillai Amirthal Ingam, secretary of the Tamil United Front, said they were Drafting their responce in writing and it would be submitted to the President and released to the press today.

Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, The Security Minister, who acts as conference spokesman, said press censorship on the proceedings of the conference was being lifted with immediate effect to enable informed public discussion to take place on the proposals.

Answering a question, he said the view that the conference had ended without anything being achieved was simplistic. The discussions had enabled all the parties involved to understand each other's views and positions. A framework for a settlement had emerged and more discussions could be held.

Asked whether it would not have been more advisible to keep the conference going, Mr Athulathmudali said the end of the conference did not mean they would stop talking. Consultation and discussion would go on

While Mr Athulathmudali declined to comment on the areas of disagreement, conference sources said the biggest problem was in the assignment of subjects. Among those, the most disputed are law and order and land policy and land settlement.

Poland facing a dose of austerity

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Poland's Communist Party leadership was told yesterday that the economy had survived disruptive attempts by the Solidarity underground, but that the country would none the less have to stomach price rises and a tough austerity programme in the new year.

Mr Kazimierz Barcikowski, one of the most senior men in the Politburo, was addressing a central committee session which is technically dedicated to economic reform.

Last month the Central Committee called for a report on Communist control of the secret police in the wake of the killing of Jerzy Popieluszko, the pro-Solidarity priest. There had been rumours of a party reshuffle and many party cells in the country have written to the Central Committee to demand a clean-up of the security apparatus.

But the early stages of the plenary session, which ends today, were devoted to the economy, with the basically gloomy message being wrapped up in a combination of exhortation and aggressive posturing towards "the internal political opponents," an apparent reference to Solidarity.

These "enemies," Mr Barcikowski said, had supported US sanctions against Poland and said plans to overcome the economic crisis, economic reform and the new trade unions would fail.

"But it is their predictions that failed. We must remember that they always applauded decisions hostile to Poland, that they announced boycotts... the enemies lowered themselves to the level of Social degenerates by questioning the sense of work in general, thus sowing apathy and popular discouragement."

Mr Barcikowski said that next year there would be 9 per cent rises, but there would first be consultations with the new trade unions. Such consultations usually affect the way in which rises are implemented.

Increases were made inevitable by higher production costs, expensive imports and the planned lifting of rationing of several foods.

Average wages should grow by between 12 and 13 per cent, but wages will be tied more and more to productivity, perhaps by implimenting Soviet-style brigade systems. The overall aim for 1985 was to maintain the same average real wage.

Austerity was the key note of the speech, although some of the Central Committee members in later discussions thought the party was putting too much strain on the workers.

● Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, was expected to meet Solidarity advisers last night at a reception and dinner at the Italian Embassy.

Today he may visit the church where Popieluszko is buried, diplomats said similar actions irritated the authorities when Mr Malcolm Rifkind, British Minister of State at the Foreign Office, visited Warsaw last month.

Ottawa and Tokyo mend fences

From David Watts
Tokyo

Mr Joe Clark, the Canadian External Affairs Minister, who is ending an important economic fence-mending mission here has told Japan's business community that "Canada is open for business again".

Mr Clark is the first minister to the Mulroney administration to visit Japan since the Conservative Government took office. By all accounts the Japanese have been impressed with the swiftness with which the Canadian Government has moved to improve relations with Tokyo after a prolonged period of uncertainty and difficulty over Canada's foreign investment policies.

Although the policies of Mr Pierre Trudeau, the former Prime Minister, were designed to protect Canadian industry and natural resources from American corporations, they also discouraged investment from Japan. Canada's transpacific trade has exceeded its transatlantic trade and last year two-way trade between Tokyo and Ottawa was $9.6 billion (£8 million).

The principal aims of Mr Clark's visit were to illustrate to the Japanese that Canadian investment law had been altered and simplified. Mr Trudeau's investment examination body has been replaced with a new institution, Investment Canada, in the hope of establishing a rapport with the Japanese business community.

43% of whites want ANC talks

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Forty-three per cent of white South Africans are in favour of negotiations between the Government and the banned African National Congress (ANC), according to an opinion poll published here yesterday.

The survey, conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council, an academic body set up and partly funded by the Government, found that 44 per cent of those interviewed were against talks with the ANC and 13 per cent had no clear views.

815 white adults chosen from all parts of South Africa were interviewed over four evenings last September for the project.

The head of the research team, Dr Nic Rhoodie, said the findings were a great surprise. "We expected the vast majority to come out against negotiations with the ANC."

Of those in favour of talking to the ANC, the largest percentage said such negotiations were "important to ensure peace", while a third of those against talks said the ANC supported communism, violence and terrorism.

Only 3 per cent of those interviewed were prepared to accept black majority rule, and 75 per cent disagreed that the granting of equal political rights to blacks was the only way to end the present unrest in African townships.

There is speculation here that one of the most influential pro-Government Afrikaans daily newspapers *Beeld* could have been used to sound out the prospects for talks

Recently *Beeld* sent its assistant editor, Mr Piet Muller, to Lusaka, the Zambian capital, for a five-hour meeting with ANC leaders. In two long articles, he reported that the ANC and Pretoria could find "enough things on which a fruitful discussion over a wide field" could be held.

Not Santa: Firemen rescuing a would-be burglar who got stuck in a chimney at Sacramento, California. He was then arrested.

Pacific naval tension worries Japanese

From Our Own Correspondent, Tokyo

An alert by more than a hundred Soviet aircraft when two American battle groups sailed near Vladivostok earlier this month has been causing concern in Japan.

Fighters, bombers and reconnaissance planes were scrambled after ships led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carriers Carl Vinson and Midway sailed to within 50 miles of the Soviet coast near Vladivostok, which is the centre of important air and naval bases.

Japan is believed to have expressed concern in Washington about this provocation, but according to the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo, there was no formal statement of objection.

It was the most serious incident since Soviet and American naval forces confronted each other last year during the search for wreckage from Korean Airlines Flight 007, shot down by a Soviet fighter.

Vladivostok and Petropavlovsk are the principal bases of the Pacific Fleet which is the largest in the Soviet navy, and includes 31 strategic missile submarines and a Kiev-class aircraft carrier.

The Navy has been growing faster in the Pacific than anywhere else, allowing Soviet forces to reach through into the Indian Ocean, using supply facilities in Vietnam.

The build-up has caused increased competition between US and Soviet forces, which monitor each other and stage mock attacks. A year ago Soviet Backfire bombers feigned an attack on a US battle group.

This latest incident is an embarrassment for the Japanese, who are trying to improve relations with the Soviet Union. A constant theme of Soviet comments on Japan's international stance is that it should not hew so closely to the American line.

Spain to press Gadaffi over 'Arab cities'

By Harry Debelius, Madrid

The Spanish Government is to demand an explanation from Libya of Colonel Gadaffi's remark that the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla on Morocco's Mediterranean coast are "Arab cities" and should not be a cause of concern to Spain.

The move, announced yesterday, is seen as an attempt by the Spanish Prime Minister, Señor Felipe González, to recoup some of the ground lost as a result of his five-hour meeting with the Libyan leader, who arrived unannounced on a "private" visit in Spain on Wednesday.

After the meeting, Señor Gonzalez said he had received assurances from Colonel Gadaffi that the recent unity pact between Libya and Morocco would not harm Spanish interests.

Politicians from Señor Gonzalez's Spanish Socialist Workers' Party joined efforts to refute the Libyan leader, as opposition party figures accused the Prime Minister of "keeping bad company" and risking a setback in Spain's foreign relations by meeting the colonel on Spanish soil.

The popular Madrid daily, *Diario-16* said yesterday that the visit was "inopportune".

Mauritania's new leader grants amnesty

Nouakchott, (Reuter)–Mauritania's new leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, yesterday announced a general amnesty for all people jailed or in exile for political reasons.

Those benefiting include former president Mokhtar Ould Daddah, who was toppled in 1978 after leading the country to independence from France in 1960. He is in exile in Tunisia.

Colonel Taya, who was Chief of Staff until he overthrew President Mohammed Khouna Ould Haidalla on December 12, said the amnesty also included former president Mustafa Ould Salek and former prime minister Sid Ahmed Ould Bneijara.

Arkhipov exudes optimism in Peking

From Mary Lee, Peking

The Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Ivan Arkhipov, arrived in Peking yesterday and spoke of "positive trends" that have become apparent recently in Sino-Soviet relations.

Reading a statement to the press at the airport, he said he hoped discussions would be useful and contribute to the strengthening of ties and contacts between the two countries.

Talks would focus on development of commercial, economic, scientific and technical ties. "Wea re convinced there exsists a large potential for the further expansion of mutually beneficial businesslike co-operation," he said before he left for the state guest house at Diaoyutai.

Mr Arkhipov was met by the second Vice-Premier, Mr Yao Yilin, the Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Qian Qichen and the ambassadors of the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Cuba and East European countries. He is due to leave Peking tomorrow for th south, including Canton.

Mr Arkhipov's statement and the warmth with which Mr Yao greeted him did not disguise the fact that the visit had been planned for May but had been abruptly postponed. The Kremlin was apparently upset by the success of President Reagan's visit toChina the previous month. Moreover, the fifth round of Sino-Soviet talks, in October, on normalizing relations produced no substantive results and, according to Mr Qian, "great differences still exist".

However, the eagerness and seeming determination of both sides to make a success of the visit is likely to produce some form of trade and economic agreement, sources said. The effect that will have on the sixth round of normalization talks remain an open question.

The significance of the visit is that it comes at a critical point in China's economic development, when the leadership has pledged itself to a policy of reform, dismantling the Stalinist methods of planning and distribution and opening up to the outside world.

Dim Christmas in Lisbon as recession bites

From Martha de la Cal
Lisbon

The economic crisis has dimmed Lisbon's Christmas this year. Few of the bright lights and illuminated decorations that traditionally adorned its streets and squares are shining this year.

Neither the town hall, which up to now subsidized the Christmas of bankruptcy, had any money to contribute to light up Lisbon for the holidays.

Senior Jorge Pires, the secretary-general of the Union of Commercial Associations for the districts of Lisbon, said: "Traditionally our associations organize the decorations and the town hall gives us support, but this year the town hall could not give us that support, and we could not go it alone. There are only a few bright spots in Lisbon where the individual shopkeepers paid for the lights themselves."

According to Senhor Pires, the volume of sales in shops for the past year is down by more than 32 per cent.

Mafia informer flown to US for questioning

From John Earle
Rome

Tommaso Buscetta, the former Mafia boss whose disclosures led to the arrest of more than 300 figures connected with the Sicilian underworld, has been lent to the United States for questioning on the Mafia's activities in that country.

He was flown under armed guard in a US military aircraft

The US authorities wish to interrogate him about recent Mafia crimes and about transatlantic drug traffic, especially the "pizza connection" as the use of pizza restaurants for the distribution of heroin is called.

Temporary extradition of a prisoner has been made possible by the recent conclusion of a new extradition treaty between Washington and Rome. Because "Don Masino", as the former Mafia boss is known, was arrested last July in Brazil the consent of that country's authorities to his extradition was obtained.

New Zealand rejects Welsh farm family

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington

Residents of the small rural community of Ohakune in the North Island of New Zealand are rallying to save a Welsh farming family from deportation.

The seven members of the Gardner family, after putting £600,000 into a sheep research programme, have had their application for permanent residence rejected by Mr Kerry Burke, the Minister of Immigration, and his department has provisionally booked them on a flight to Britain late next month.

The booking is conditional because of a question mark over the health of Robbie Ball, aged two, the grandson of Charles and Ann Gardner, who is in Auckland hospital. The boy underwent a heart valve operation on Tuesday.

The Gardners say the Minister's letter giving notice of their deportation came as a bombshell. The family – Charles, aged 57, Ann, aged 49, their two daughters, their son-in-law Mr Tom Ball, and their two grandchildren – settled on two properties two years ago and began experimenting with the development of a new line of ewes.

Their research is believed to be the first of its kind undertaken in the southern hemisphere.

The Government has expressed interest in their work. A scientist at a government research centre wrote to the Gardners in June, remarking that collaboration would be "to our mutual interest".

In view of this the Gardners remain confident. Local people are drawing up a petition against their deportation. The mayor, Mr Bill Taylor, was the first to sign.

Mr Burke says he understands the family sold up in Britain after being told they were not entitled to, or guaranteed, permanent residence. He explained that British people could come here on family unification grounds but otherwise had to be under the age of 45, with fewer than four children and "with a skill which is demanded in New Zealand".

Chad rebels ban French

Paris (Reuter) – Mr Goukouni Oueddei, the Chadian rebel leader, said he would refuse to allow French military observers into his power base in northern Chad to check whether there are Libyan forces there.

In an interview with foreign journalists published in the French daily *Liberation* yesterday, Mr Goukouni said: "No French officer will set foot in this part of Chad, except by force."

M Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister, said on Wednesday that French and Greek military officers, already in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, planned to travel south to monitor the withdrawal of Libyan troops.

"The Greeks can come, along with Syrians, Libyans or other neutral nations, but France has not adopted a neutral stand," Mr Goukouni told journalists at his military headquarters in Faya-Largeau.

Libya has said it has no troops left in Chad. Mr Goukouni hedged questions on the issue but said he expected further Libyan logistical support.

He accused President Mitterrand of aiming or intending to partition Chad.

THE ARTS

Flavour survives in the old panto recipe

Christmas shows bring the traditional heroes, heroines, villains and dames. This year the productions include some updated versions but the time-honoured formula is still the favourite

Like the débutante's laugh in the epigram, most conventional pantomimes are "too late, my love, too loud and far too long". But, now that the old formula is threatened by enterprising variations such as *The Wiz* or the Young Vic's country-and-Western, I wonder how much longer we shall see television stars in suede jerkins and medieval robes trailing their mikes on stage to bawl some staple of the nightclub repertoire.

Wimbledon's **Cinderella** proves that with good performers, a crack production and enough visual glitter, it can still work. It has the incorrigible Bill Owen and Kathy Staff, Roger the Dog on wicked form, and Bonnie Langford at her most vital. It also boasts four miniature ponies to pull Cinders's delicatewrought-iron coach, and Alan Miller Bunford's costumes for the Ugly Sisters (appearing at one point as a zebra crossing and a bathroom) are worthy of Ultz himself.

But, despite a gala premiè that had Princess Alexandra joining in the antiphonal sing-song, Richmond's **Jack and the Beanstalk** came to life only after the interval with Jimmy Edwards and his trombone at their Falstaffian best: an amicable greeting for the drop curtain, some musical swanking ("not just tadpoles on wires to me"), three whooping solos and a glance down the bell in search of Ronnie Corbett. I also liked Joan Sims's beaming Vegetable Fairy and Keith Barron as the giant's villain, unashamedly played as Richard III (and how he hated Richmond).

But Kenneth Connor's dear little Twankeyish dame is hampered by poor jokes, Susan Maughan kept hauling herself into the top notes, and despite a smashing Cyril Fletcher imitation Peter Goodwright's winsome Simple Simon is no match for Paul Nicholas's ebulliently outgoing Buttons at Wimbledon.

The Players Theatre, of course, survives all changing fashions and this year's Victorian pantomime, preceded as always by a few crisp "joys" and carols, is done with the usual wit and relish. Planché's **Puss in Boots** (1837) is a highly professional extravaganza of smoothly turned couplets, cat-astrophic puns and catchy travesties of opera. Sadly, no encores: I would have loved a second helping of the trio for frustrated ladies-in-waiting (Alexandra Sebastian, Wendy Jones and Loraine Hart), or John Orchard's Irish ogre singing a cannibalistic burlesque of "O ruddier than the cherry".

But Puss herself (himself?) stole the show. Maureen Brathwaite, who completed the Guildhall School opera course only this summer, is a tiny black soprano with a lovely voice securely handled, a natural way with dialogue and an infectious grin. She sailed through Blondchen's jubilant aria from *The Seraglio* with evident delight. What a Papagena she would make!

Sadly, this third season of the RSC **Peter Pan** is billed as the last, though with luck in a few years they may change their minds. I still find it an overwhelming experience. It is stunningly spectacular and beautiful, but its refusal to shirk the connection with *Barrie's real-life "lost boys"* also makes it unbearably moving. The tweeness is tactfully minimized, and casting a man to play Peter Pan (which made history) makes it less of a principal-boy panto than a virile adventure story.

Anthony Masters



Donald Cooper



Left: Wimbledon winners Paul Nicholas and Bonnie Langford. Right: Players Theatre show-stealer Maureen Brathwaite, as Puss, with Eleanor McCready, as Fairy Fatima

● Peter John makes his seasonal return to the Watford Palace Theatre as author and Dame in *Aladdin*, well clued-up as ever on birthdays, wolf-cub block bookings, and other local matters. This time his concern for audience contact has taken participation well over the limit. Not content with placing spectators on guard over a shelf of sweets, he flogs them into action at every turning point of the story before rounding them up for a washing-line song-sheet finale.

Even without these thunderous interruptions, the story is poorly told (Tizzy, a bungling Slave of the Ring, gets lumbered with the main magical tasks, while the lamp is uselessly confiscated by Twankey). The comic level is lamentable, and Old Peking is rendered through supermarkets and the laundromat-TV joke (complete with Wogan portrait).

Bernard Culshaw does better with the designs of the palace dungeon. Paddy Fletcher, a feeble thumb-biting Abanaza, doubles effectively as a clapped-out rival suitor for the Princess.

Irving Wardle

Television

Lasting Latin rhythms

ARENA (BBC 2) asked the question: **What's Cuba Playing At?** Then it stayed quite a long time for the answer – an answer which included the rumba, the cha cha cha and the conga. Those who have danced to these rhythms in Imperial Ballrooms all over the country might have been surprised to learn that such dances combine (to put it very roughly) the rhythms of Africa and the melodies of Europe. Like Cuban dance and even Cuban religion, this subtle comminglingg of sources has produced something quite rare and certainly distinctive.

And there can be no doubt about the vitality of the mixture – the rapt faces of the participants were proof enough of that. It may even survive socialism, even though everyone concerned seemed at pains to suggest that this particular music can be seen as an emblem of "the revolution".

But since this Afro-European tradition can fairly be described as the national culture of Cuba, no doubt it will be able to rise above the politics of the day – the musicians, some of whom have played in bands since the 1920s, had certainly mastered that trick.

Italians (BBC 2) reached its conclusion with **The Bride of Calabria** – she was not exactly an unwilling one but she was, shall we say, going to the altar with her eyes wide open. As she explained to the always unseen interviewer, "... there's nothing to do here". Everyone else seemed happy at the prospect, and the father had fatted a calf which "will feed 600 Christians" at the wedding reception.

Despite a few local variations this was a familiar story. One might not be very interested in the situation in England, and so it was hard to get excited about the fact that it was happening in Italy. It was all rather like a foreign version of *The Family*, except, of course, that the wedding cost £20,000.

Peter Ackroyd

Radio

Peake performances

Out of what amounts to prejudice I have never made any effort to read the work of Mervyn Peake. Other people's opinions and a cursory glance at something he had written convinced me that I was unlikely to enjoy the experience. Precious stuff, I thought, but not valuable – like an ultra-Gothic Ronald Firbank.

This, of course, puts me in a very shaky position to assess Brian Sibley's two Peake adaptations. **Titus Groan** (Radio 4, December 10) and **Gormenghast** (Radio 4, December 17), either as realizations of their author's intentions, or as versions likely to satisfy the small but no doubt aggressive band of Peake cultists.

What I can say without hesitation is that, true or not so true to their originals, these two productions under the direction of Glyn Dearman were both quite spell-binding and almost persuaded me that I ought to set aside the afore-mentioned prejudice.

Amost but perhaps not quite, for I took in enough with that cursory glance to register an exceedingly ornate prose style of a kind that still discourages me, whereas one of the pleasures of these two magnificent bits of radio was that, while incomparably rich and brooding and strange, they were also extraordinarily spare and economical.

I suspect that huge swathes of heavily encrusted prose had had to go and the effect of this was that the thread of the story itself stood out oh sharp relief. And a very powerful, familiar and affecting story it is – how Steerpike, creeping upward from the infernal kitchens, attempts to overturn the fossilized world of Gormenghast and how in parallel Titus Groan, 77th Earl, tries to escape the net of ritual and asphyxiating tradition that is his inheritance.

Dearman's direction did full justice to these excellent scripts, although I suppose he had made his task that much easier by assembling a cast which must surely have caused every other radio writer in the kingdom to open his eyes and gasp in sheer envy.

Would not all of us sound as good as Shakespeare with a cast like this: David Warner, Freddie Jones, Eleanor Bron, Judy Parfitt, Sheila Hancock, Bernard Hepton, Robert Eddison, Maurice Denham, Michael Aldridge, Stratford Johns, Cyril Shaps, Jill Lidstone ...?

Well no, we probably wouldn't. But they were all impeccable – full-blooded, inventive, bizarre, yet with that touch of solemnity and restraint essential to such elemental legends. Then, of course, there was rock star Sting cast as Steerpike and a bit of a director's gimmick, you might think. He stood apart certainly, but that was right for he was thinner, more metallic – a killer, a terrorist at large and unsuspected among a band of gaudy players.

Could there have been a greater contrast to this than BBC Radio Scotland's **Accidental Conversation** (Radio Scotand, December 18: director, James Runcie)? This short play had no author: it had been devised by the director and his cast (Eileen McCallum, Tamara Kennedy, Jonathan Watson, Natasha Gerson). They scripted bits of it, the rest they improvised in studio.

This team had conceived a simple but fertile scheme: a widow and her three more or less grown children go off on a holiday to Iona, which she last visited with her husband, a naval man, not long before he died. The circumstances of the death never come to light but create a sense of unease as do the snippets of news heard on the family radio.

So in a bare 25 minutes, *Accidental Conversation* developed a penetrating sense of danger, both personal and public, of things unsaid and unsayable but by no means incomunnicable.

David Wade

Opera

Tchaikovsky over the top

Mazeppa
Coliseum

The idea of the Norwest Holst series at the Coliseum is to present rare operas for just a single run of performance, which I suppose means picking works which people will want to see once but never again. From that point of view, *Rienzi* last year was an excellent choice. But *Mazeppa* this year is a different dish of potatoes. As far as I am aware, nobody has ever claimed it as a work of any historical importance; it is simply one of Tchaikovsky's other operas, showing to a remarkable degree his ability to write mediocre music when the spirit was not upon him.

Being characterless, though, is a dangerous deficiency for an opera at the hands of modern producers. The best productions thrive from that tension which exists between the story the producer wants to tell and the story the music is telling. Where the music is not saying anything very much, then directorial self-indulgence is liable to go over the top, as it does in this staging of *Mazeppa* by David Alden.

But I do not wholly join hands with those who delighted in booing so much of the proceedings. Mr Alden's basic intuition that *Mazeppa* is about brutality is on the ball, even if it could apply equally well to war-torn operas from *Fidelio* to *Wozzeck* (and has in his productions). With his designer David Fielding he gives the work an effectively stark environment in a white-walled room lit often by fluorescent strips: at different moments it might be a practice room in a theatre, a drill hall, a prison chamber, an operating theatre. The period is unsettled. There are some nineteenth-century clothes about, but there are also suits and Homburgs out of this company's *Rigoletto*, offering us Mazeppa as Stalin.

OK. Fine. The setting even allows for some splendid moments of theatre. For instance, the "Gopak" in the first act is danced by KGB agents and their catamites, running, sprawling and grappling with each other: quite why I am not sure but it looks good, and it fits the note of desperation in the music, which is certainly not underplayed in a tumultuous account of the score under Mark Elder.

Partly, these things are so searing because they are so balletic, which is also what keeps them in tune with the score. When Mr Alden goes in for gore, severed heads and flesh-sodden chain saws, he begins rather to lose touch with Tchaikovsky. More importantly, his imagery becomes gross and ludicrous.

Even so, the cast comes out of the evening well. Malcolm Donnelly, as Mazeppa, sings strongly and has the dictator's necessary qualities: commanding presence and the ability not to see what is happening. Janice Cairns and Felicity Palmer are excellent as the distraught women, never letting affliction spoil their singing, and rising superbly to the vocal and emotional challenge of the opera's one dramatic number. There is also a wily Kochubei from Richard Van Allan.

Paul Griffiths

Dance

The Nutcracker
Covent Garden

When last the Royal Ballet produced *The Nutcracker*, we remarked that they were establishing a tradition to do so every 17 years. What was meant as a joke has become a prophecy, for here, only a few weeks early, is their fourth interpretation of the ballet.

Peter Wright makes little attempt to burnish the choreography into new beauties, as Ashton did in 1951, nor to find a new logical drama matching the music, as Nureyev did in 1968. Instead, he tries to restore the original Russian version by Petipa and Ivanov on which Nicholas Sergeyev based the first Royal Ballet staging in 1934.

Given the generally unfavourable reception of that original 1892 production, reconstructing it seems rash. Other choreographies of that period might better repay historical research. But *Nutcracker* survives thanks to Tchaikovsky, and solely to him, so it was wise to secure a guest conductor of Gennady Rozhdestvensky's stature and ballet experience. His first London appearance was as second conductor of the Bolshoi Ballet in 1956, and it is a pleasure to welcome him back to Covent Garden for a detailed, well-shaped and lively account of the score.

The only real gem among the surviving dances was the *pas de deux* in Act II. Tradition had it that Ivanov's long-lost Snowflakes scene was equally good, but if Wright's interpretation of the old notation is valid, it has been overrated. Balanchine's, Nureyev's and Lichine's modern reworkings were all more interesting.

Wright has tried to introduce a little drama around the mysterious Herr Drosselmeyer, but it looks not much different from other recent stagings. His one choreographic coup is in suggesting a plausible explanation for a famous photograph of the first Sugar Plum Fairy standing on a scarf held by her partner – and pretty odd it looks, too, in gravure and on stage. That apart, his production is sound, straightforward except for some tiresomely obtrusive Christmas fairies, and unfortunately dull, as it could hardly avoid with this approach.

It would look a lot more attractive with designs as pretty, imaginative and enchanting as those of Benois for the former Festival Ballet production. But Julia Trevelyan Oman's designs are cluttered and dowdy. Also, the transformation of the Christmas tree is the least good I have seen in any serious production; it loses all the magic. She has turned the ballet's poetry into very plodding prose.

Michael Coleman's extremely morose characterization of Drosselmeyer is surprising but valid; presumably it will grow less stiff in time. Little Clara, the recipient of the nutcracker doll, is the heroine of the first half: not much of a character, but Julie Rose plays her with spirit.

After the interval, she is banished to a throne invisible from my stalls seat (the Covent Garden sightlines are beyond a joke) and the Sugar Plum Fairy and her prince arrive like guest artists at a gala for their big number. Lesley Collier and Anthony Dowell did it very nicely last night, but is he *meant* to be dressed as a Christmas cracker?

John Percival

Divisional Court | **Law Report** December 22 1984 | Court of Appeal

Defendant's state of mind crucial for re-election

Regina v Birmingham Justices, Ex parte Hodgson and Another

Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough

[Judgment delivered December 20]

Where justices were faced with an application to change his election by a defendant, who was charged with an offence triable either way and had elected mode of trail, the central factor to which they had to pay attention was the defendant's state of mind when he made his election.

A defendant was not lightly to be deprived of a right to trial by jury, so that, regardless of whether the justices might have regarded summary trial as more appropriate of the particular offence charged, section 20(3) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 gave a defendant an absolute right to refuse to consent to such a trial.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment allowing the application for *certiorari* of Paul Henry Hodgson and Keith Barry Wiseman, to quash the refusals of the Birmingham Justices on October 10, and November 7, 1983, to allow their application to withdraw their election of summary trial and to elect trial by jury and remitted the case for reconsideration by a fresh bench of justices.

Mr John Maxwell for the applicants; Mr Roger D. H. Smith for the justices.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH said that the applicants appeared, unrepresented, before the justices charged with theft of wood valued at £12. Believing they had no defence, they elected to be tried summarily and pleaded guilty.

In their mitigation, it was clear that they believed the wood had been thrown away; the court therefore entered pleas of not guilty, advised them to seek legal representation and adjourned the case for trial at a later date.

Their legal adviser applied for leave to vacate the election for summary trial and to elect trial by jury on the grounds that the applicants lacked the necessary guilty intent, and on the fact that they had been unrepresented. The application was refused with no reasons given.

A month later the legal adviser applied again on the basis that the original election was made by mistake and the court had recognized that fact by entering pleas of not guilty. The justices, giving no reasons again, refused the application. It was to be inferred that the justices regarded the value of the wood as material.

His Lordship, having reviewed several decisions of the Divisional Court, said that *R v Highbury Corner Justices, Ex parte Ali* (unreported, May 22, 1984) and *R v Derwentside Justices, Ex parte Hemmingway* (unreported, June 22, 1983) drew attention to the question whether the defendant properly understood the nature and significance of the choice which was put to him.

A most important factor in the mind of the defendant, when he was deciding which court he would like to deal with his case, was whether or not he believed he had any defence. In many cases the defendant might not know he had a defence until he had legal advice.

In *R v Craske, Ex parte Metropolitan Police Commissioner* ([1957] 2 QB 591), the court would have favoured an application of a defendant whose solicitor had been delayed on his way to court and had therefore elected summary trial without the benefit of legal advice.

That situation was not really distinct to that where the defendant had first instructed a solicitor after he had been put to his election.

If the defendant demonstrated that his original choice was exercised when he did not properly understand the nature and significance of the choice he was making, it was as if he had never made that choice.

In *R v Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Zardin* (unreported, May 14, 1971) and *R v Lambeth Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Wright* (*The Times*, April 29, 1974; [1974] Crim LR 444), where the refusal to grant the application was upheld, the defendants had pleaded guilty all along; it could be assumed they had an adequate understanding of the choice before them when the election was put.

In *R v West Bromwich Justices, Ex parte Pearson* (unreported, June 5, 1981) it was significant that the court would not quash the justices' refusal to make a second re-election, and the justices thought it right to deal with the defendant having already dealt with a co-defendant; see also *R v Canterbury Justices, Ex parte Farrance* (unreported, July 13, 1982).

His Lordship said that the broad justice of the situation in the case before him demanded that the applicants be allowed to re-elect, and no other conclusion was reasonable.

They had pleaded guilty under the misapprehension that they had no defence; they had elected summary trial in the belief they would not be tried but merely sentenced, and only upon advice from their solicitor did the reality of their situation become apparent for the first time.

Even though they might have understood the choice which they were being asked to make, they clearly did not appreciate its significance for them. The facts were similar to those in *R v Highbury Corner Justices, Ex parte Ali.*

His Lordship added that the phrase "summary trial" in sections 19 and 20 of the 1980 Act clearly referred to the whole process of the summary trial and not to that part which followed the plea.

The reference to "trial by jury" in section 20 was misleading, and would be so especially to unrepresented defendants intending to plead guilty.

It would be better if the sections contrasted "summary trial" with references to the "magistrates court" and to the "crown court", so that it was clear to the defendant that the choice lay between having his case as a whole dealt with in the crown court where if he pleaded not guilty he would be tried by a jury, and having it dealt with in the magistrates court where if he pleaded not guilty he would be tried by the justices.

Lord Justice Robert Goff agreed.

Solicitors: Douglas-Mann & Co for George Jonas & Co, Birmingham; Mr M. A. Walker, Birmingham.

Understanding mode of trial necessary

Regina v Highbury Corner Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Weekes

Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough

[Judgment delivered December 20]

Where, at the time of electing his mode of trial, an unrepresented defendant aged 17 had not understood the nature of the election, his subsequent application to change his election should have been allowed. It was not relevant in determining whether such an application should be allowed that the magistrates' court considered itself capable of trying the case.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, granting Leroy Alan Weekes judicial review by way of *certiorari* to quash a decision of the Highbury Corner Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate on February 17, 1984 to refuse his application to change his election of summary trial on charges of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and malicious wounding, but refusing to quash a decision of January 23, 1984 to put the defendant to his election on that day. The defendant had been arrested on January 21 and had appeared for the first time on January 23, unrepresented, having had no opportunity to apply for legal aid.

Mr Richard Drabble for the defendant; the justices did not appear and were not represented.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH said that this case was distinguishable from *R v Birmingham Justices, Ex parte Hodgson* (*The Times* December 22, 1984) and *R v Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court, ex parte Ali* (unreported, May 22, 1984) in that there was no question that the defendant had not realized at the time of the election that he had a defence.

It was also distinguishable from *R v Lambeth Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Wright* (*The Times*, April 29, 1974; [1974] Crim LR 444) and *R v Metropolitan Magistrates, Ex parte Zardin* (unreported, May 14, 1971), because in both those cases it was assumed that the defendant applying to change his election had fully understood the choices open to him when the election was put.

In the present case, having regard to the defendant's age and his uncontradicted assertion that he had not understood the choice he had been asked to make, the magistrate should have assumed on the second occasion that he had not made an informed choice on the first.

Accordingly the broad justice of the situation required that he be allowed to re-elect, and that was the only conclusion to which the magistrate could reasonably have come.

The magistrate's observation that the magistrate's court could grapple with the difficulties in the case indicated that he had misunderstood the very limited use to which his own view as to the suitable mode of trial could properly be put: see *Hodgson's* case. It therefore appeared that he had taken into account a factor which should not have weighed with him.

Although, in view of the defendant's age and the seriousness of the charges, it should have been clear to anyone who had thought about it that he would get legal aid and that his election would be more informed if it were put after he had taken legal advice, his Lordship was loath to lay down as a principle that an unrepresented defendant of any particular age should in relation to serious charges never be put to his election on his first appearance, and he could not isolate any factor which would make this a special case.

It was one thing to say that justices should take account of the fact that the defendant did not understand the nature of the election when that was pointed out to them on an application to re-elect; it was another to say that that was something which they should presume for themselves when the election was put.

His Lordship was not persuaded that the decision to put the defendant to his election could be attacked successfully on *Wednesbury* principles ([1948] 1 KB 223).

His Lordship would remit the case to a fresh bench of justices to reconsider the application to re-elect.

Lord Justice Robert Goff agreed.

Solicitors: Clifford Watts Compton & Co.

Justices can amend clerical slip in summons

Regina v Eastbourne Justices, Ex parte Kisten

Where a person had been required to attend court upon a summons which was defective because of a clerical error (it alleged *an offence of giving a false alarm of* fire contrary to section 30(2) of the Fire Services Act 1947 instead of contrary to section 31(1)) and he had subsequently pleaded guilty when the charge was put to him without reference to either section of the Act or the Act itself, the justices were entitled to amend the summons before the final disposal of the case.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held (Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough) in a reserved judgment on December 14 dismissing an application for judicial review for *certiorari* to quash the decision of the Eastbourne Justices to amend the summons on January 23, 1984.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH said that there was no suggestion that the applicant was aware of the contradiction in the summons or had been misled when the information was read out to which he pleaded guilty; what was read out could only have amounted to an offence against section 31(1).

The court adopted the approach of *Allan v Wiseman* ([1975] RTR 217). Further, there was nothing in rule 100 of the Magistrates' Courts Rules (SI 1981 No 552) or section 123 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 which suggested that a summons could not be amended after a plea or finding of guilt. Since the defect had arisen through clerical error and the applicant had not been misled, there was no injustice in allowing the amendment.

Correction

In *Gillick v West Norfolk and Wisbech Area Health Authority and Another* (*The Times* December 21) Mr Patrick Field should have been included in the list of counsel for the plaintiff.

Commissioners need not consider taxpayers' papers in his absence

Banin v Mackinlay (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Lord Justice Oliver, Lord Justice Purchas and Mr Justice Neill

[Judgment delivered December 13]

Special commissioners hearing an appeal against income tax assessments in the absence of a taxpayer were entitled to proceed and to determine the matter without referring to documents and written submissions that the taxpayer had lodged with them days before the hearing.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Banin, from Mr Justice Harman's decision (*The Times*, February 16, 1984) who refused to interfere with the commissioners' determination of his liability to income tax from 1975 to 1982 inclusive.

Mr C. W. Koenigsberger for the taxpayer; Mr Robert Carnwath for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER said that three days before the taxpayer's appeal was listed for hearing his accountants had delivered to the commissioners, without further explanation, a bundle of documents described as pleadings and affidavit. The taxpayer, a manufacturing jeweller and said to be inarticulate, refused to attend the hearing. The commissioners did not admit his statement or look at the documents and determined his liability to tax for the years under appeal.

Were they right to proceed to hear the matter without referring to the documents? Mr Justice Harman had rejected the three arguments put by the taxpayer, namely (1) that the commissioners' refusal to look at the taxpayer's documents was contrary to natural justice; (2) that it was contrary to the provisions of section 50(5) of the Taxes Management Act 1970 (expressly empowering lawyers to plead before commissioners either orally or in writing); and (3) that in any event the commissioners had a discretion as to whether they should look at the documents and that their failure to look at them was not a proper exercise of that discretion.

Mr Justice Harman's judgment was entirely right and could not be improved on. Section 50(5) confined the privilege of pleading in writing to lawyers – it was not extended to accountants or to litigants in person.

Lord Justice Purchas and Mr Justice Neill agreed.

Solicitors: Kean & Kean; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Proving affray offence

Attorney General's Reference (No 3 of 1983)

The Lord Chief Justice, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Boreham and Mr Justice Tudor Price on December 21, gave a reserved opinion on Attorney General's Reference (No 3 of 1983).

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that, in order to establish the offence of affray in a public place, the Crown must establish:

(1) That there was unlawful fighting or unlawful violence used by one or more than one person against another or others, or there was an unlawful display of force by one or more than one person without actual violence; and

(2) That the unlawful fighting, violence or display of force was such that a bystander of reasonable firmness and courage (whether or not present or likely to be present) might reasonably be expected to be terrified.

His Lordship added that it was unnecessary in the present opinion to discuss fighting in places which were not public. In all circumstances, so far as their Lordships were able to see, an innocent victim or intended victim of fighting or violence or an innocent participant in it might constitute such a "bystander".



SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Another first

Sebastian Coe has become the first twentieth century sportsman to have his painted portrait – as opposed to drawings and photographs – on permanent display at the National Portrait Gallery. But he only just made it. The problem with sports-



men is that by the time they are great enough to be considered, they are old and grey. A spokesman said: "We would like to have portraits of, say, Gordon Pirie, or Roger Bannister – but there is no point in commissioning them now. At an athlete's peak it is hard to distinguish between ephemeral celebrity and enduring fame."

Martin Rose's picture of Coe (above) was offered to the gallery, and rejected, earlier this year. Then came the Olympics, when Coe won silver and gold for the second time. The portrait was resubmitted, and the gallery trustees reckoned he had become suitably immortal.

● **After his poor showing in the opinion polls, Pelé has abandoned his plan to become president of Brazil. But this is not the end of the road. He said: "If I am invited to become sports minister in a total democracy, I will accept."**

Leg Byron

Lord Byron's cricketing career has recently been recalled by the display of a letter at Harrow School. Byron played in the first Eton v Harrow match in 1805 (Eton won by an innings and two runs) and wrote afterwards: "We have played the Eton, and were most confoundedly beat, however it was some comfort to me that I got 11 notches this 1st innings and 7 the 2d, which was more than any of our side except Brockman and Lord Ipswich could contrive to hit. After the match, we dined extremely friendly, not a single discordant word was uttered by either party. To be sure, we were most of us rather drunk, and went together to the Haymarket Theatre where we kicked up a row, as you may suppose when so many Harrovians and Etonians meet at one place. We all got into the same box, the consequence was that such a devil of a noise arose that none of our neighbours could hear a word of the drama, at which, not being highly delighted, they began to quarrel with us and we nearly came to a *battle royal*. How I got home God knows."

Pohi

They may have won everything in sight at the Olympics, but the United States were beaten at elephant polo last week. The Tiger Tops Tuskers of Nepal beat Pan Am Jumbos 2-1 in the world elephant polo championships at Meghauli, Nepal. Matches are played by four elephants a side, each bearing a mahout, a player, and a man at the back whose job is to encourage the beast in quicksilver turns and to *catch the player if he starts to slide off.*

● **Mark Hoad would prefer to forget the Christmas Conditional Jockey's Selling Hurdle at Leicester on Monday. Before the start, his mount, Gale Boy, dumped him into a sewage ditch. The odorous Hoad still made it to the start, only for Gale Boy to fall at the first flight.**

Hard going

This is the last Christmas that John Francome, the champion National Hunt jockey, will fast for a Boxing Day meeting. He will definitely retire at the end of this season and go straight into training. He still loves the racing but, struggling these days to beat 11 stone, he is fed up with starvation.

Great shakes

The Australian touring rugby party has been celebrating its grand slam of victories in Britain with a cocktail in their national colours of gold and green, invented by one of their number, Bill Calcraft. The gold is, perhaps fancifully, provided by tequila; the green unquestionably by crème de menthe. The whole is watered down with vodka. Calcraft did not make the side.

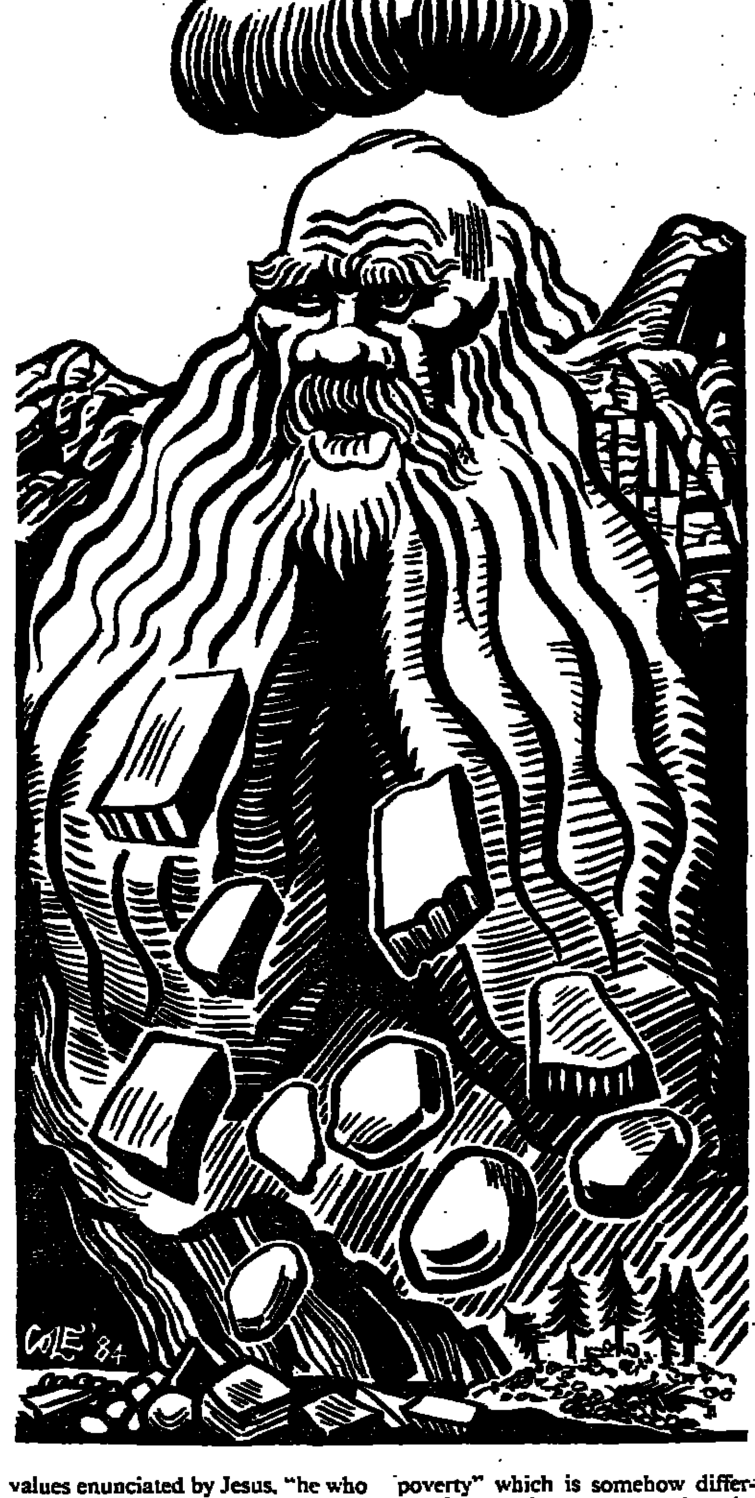
BARRY FANTONI



'You don't have to tell my mother – unfortunately I'm one myself'

A. N. Wilson reflects on the impracticality of leading a truly Christian life – but grows more convinced that we should try

Tolstoy, God and me



Rather less than 20 years ago, when I was a schoolboy, I belonged to a sixth-form society to which we invited visiting speakers. Someone came and told us how the City of *London worked. On another* week, a politician might come to speak, or a journalist or a writer.

One week, a man came and told us about Tolstoy. He spoke, not about Tolstoy's genius as a novelist (which I think I had begun to discover) but about the great act of renunciation which Tolstoy undertook after he had finished *Anna Karenina*. As he spoke, I felt my "heart burn within me", like the disciples walking to Emmaus after the first Easter.

I felt more excited by the story than by any I had ever heard. Here was the greatest genius who had ever written a novel. He was a Russian aristocrat, an ex-soldier, a sensualist, one of the richest characters (in all senses of those words) in the history of literature. And yet, at the very summit of his fame, he wanted to renounce everything, to abandon his estates, his money, the practice of literature, the exercise of his carnal appetites, and to live a life of poverty, like the peasants on his estates. And why? Because he had become convinced that the sermon preached by Jesus on the mountain towards the beginning of St Matthew's Gospel was simply and literally true.

At the time I was very young for my 15 or 16 years, very impressionable and very enthusiastic. I had already been, by turns, a convert to a simple sort of evangelical Christianity; an atheist; a Marxist with particular devotion to the teachings of Chairman Mao.

I do not remember in what order I adopted and discarded these enthusiasms. I expect I went through about three of four creeds in each school term. But the Tolstoy thing took hold of me for longer. Strange as it seems to me now, for about two years I tried to practise some of the simpler dictates of the Tolstoyan creed such as vegetarianism. I joined the Peace Pledge Union. I absorbed and reread as much of his writings as I could. Then, when a few years passed, I found that I had moved on. Tolstoy was not forgotten. He was put on one side, always haunting my memory.

Lately, for a number of reasons, I have returned to Tolstoy, and once again I have been overwhelmed by the sheer grandeur and simplicity of his writings on the subject of Christianity. Coming to the story as a grown-up, I am furthermore haunted by his appalling domestic sufferings. Everything about him was great – larger than life – including his faults and his mistakes.

'I am astonished not by Tolstoy's failure to live as Jesus said we should, but by his attempt to do so'

But Tolstoy himself had an answer which shames any of his detractors:

"Well, but you, Leo Nikolayevich; you preach – but how about practice?' People always put it to me and always triumphantly shut my mouth with it. You preach, but how do you live? And I reply that I do not preach and cannot preach, though I passionately desire to do so. I could only preach by deeds; and my deeds are bad. What I say is not a sermon, but only a refutation of a false understanding of the Christian teaching and an explanation of its real meaning. Its meaning is not that we should in its name rearrange society by violence: its purpose is to find the meaning of our life in this world. The performance of Christ's five commandments gives that meaning. If you wish to be a Christian, you must fulfil those commands. If you do not wish to fulfil them, don't talk of Christianity . . . I do not fulfil a ten-thousandth part it is true, and I am to blame for that: but it is not because I do not wish to fulfil them that I fail, but because I do not know how to. Teach me how to escape from the nets of temptation that have ensnared me, help me, and I will fulfil them; but even without help I desire and hope to do so. Blame me – I do that myself – but blame *me*, and not the path I tread, and show to those who ask me where in my opinion the road lies! If I know the road home and go along it drunk, staggering from side to side – does that make the road along which I go a wrong one . . . ?"

Reading those words again after a gap of nearly 20 years, I was arrested once more by their extraordinary power. They made me read the Sermon on the Mount again, and to see it with fresh eyes. As a young reader of Tolstoy, I was chiefly struck by his failure to live as Jesus said we should. Twenty years later, I am much more astonished by his attempt to do so than I am by his failure.

Most reasonable, decent, western readers in the latter half of the twentieth century would find the Christ of Saint Matthew's Gospel romantic, but repellent. The brutal paradoxes of the Beatitudes seem inimical to contemporary moral values. Sometimes good agnostics say that they are unable to accept the supernatural elements of the New Testament but that they would like to think that their lives approximate to the values of the Sermon on the Mount.

The life of Tolstoy is a vivid illustration of what it would be like if we *truly* wished to live as Jesus taught. The modern, un-Christian wisdom, for instance, would consider it impracticable and simply unhealthy to worry about the lustful thoughts which happen to pass through our heart. In the scale of values enunciated by Jesus, "he who casts his eyes on a woman so as to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart". (Matthew 5:28). Even if we thought that we *could* prevent ourselves having such thoughts, how many of us believe that we *should*? Certainly many an analyst would be out of business if we truly thought it was possible to banish the very feelings of anger (Matthew 5:22).

As for the teachings of Jesus about money and poverty, could anyone who was not, like Tolstoy, a rich aristocrat, contemplate giving up *everything*, and living as the flowers of the field, dependent wholly on the providence of God? Perhaps a few young men and women nowadays embrace the comparative security of a religious order and believe that they have become poor for Christ's sake. But what of us, who live *in* the world? Do bills pay themselves? Christ told his disciples to pay tax to Caesar, so presumably he did not expect them to be penniless.

The renunciation of Tolstoy, when watched from afar, unfolds like a great tragedy and we can, at this historical distance, be uplifted by its drama. But of *us*: what of us, *with our humdrum carnal and* economic needs? Surely it would be madness to emulate him, pure insanity to put into practice the self-destructive teachings of Christ.

But I find that the words of Tolstoy will not be dismissed or ignored. "If you wish to be a Christian, you must fulfil these commands", he said. And when one turns to the New Testament itself, the paradox of it all becomes even harsher. What would we say of a man who tried to bottle up all his anger, to suppress his sexual nature, who abandoned all earthly security, closed his deposit account and gave the money to the poor?

Would we not think that such a person was storing up trouble, behaving in a way which was calculated to produce a total personal collapse? Jesus says this about such a man:

"Whoever, then, hears these *commandments of mine and carries* them out, is like a wise man who built his house upon rock; and the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall: it was founded upon rock. But whoever hears these commandments of mine and does not carry them out is like a fool, who built his house upon sand; and the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat upon that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it (Matthew 7:24–28).

These words at the end of the Sermon on the Mount are perhaps the most shocking and preposterous of all. For, whatever else Christ appears to offer in his manifesto for the Kingdom, it is not rock-like security. From the very opening words, *Blessed are the poor in spirit*, the paradox is with us. *Blessed are the poor in spirit* does not mean the same, precisely, as blessed are the poor. And it is conspicuous that those who are professionally engaged in teaching the truth of the Incarnation, the clergy, should have spent so much of their energy over the years in denying the truth of these words, *Blessed are the poor in spirit*, the very first words uttered in St Matthew's Sermon by the incarnate God.

We have been told that there is such a thing as "evangelical poverty" which is somehow different from real poverty, or that the words mean "Blessed are the needy": that is, blessed are those who recognize their need for God's grace. But this beatitude, *Blessed are the poor in spirit*, is really no more than an introduction to the other saying of Christ in the same Sermon:

"Do not lay up treasures for yourselves on earth, where there is moth and rust to consume it, where there are thieves to break in and steal it; lay up treasures for yourselves in heaven. . . A man cannot be the slave of two masters at once; either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will devote himself to the one and despise the other, You must serve God or money; you cannot serve both" (Matthew 6:19–20, 24).

But in commonsense terms, we know that the poor *are not* blessed. What is blessed about the filth of shanty-towns? What is blessed about a disease-ridden African village full of starving children? What can the poor in such places hope for, live for? We suffer in the West from the deadening effects of materialism. But we can at least see that wealth, rightly used, has enabled us to lift ourselves above the purely material level of the beasts.

Shakespeare was patronized by a rich man, the Earl of Southampton. Michelangelo painted his masterpieces at the behest of rich popes. The sublime masses and symphonies of Haydn were paid for. The great Gothic cathedrals, the swooping, well-planted parks of eighteenth-century noblemen, the great canvases or Tintoretto or Rembrandt were all produced by money, and they would not have existed if everyone in Christian Europe had followed purely the dictates of the Christian religion.

'A society ordered along the lines of the sermon would in social terms be a recipe for anarchy'

There is nothing bland about the Beatitudes. They are all hard: hard in the sense of flinty – as the final metaphor of the sermon would suggest; hard in the sense of difficult; hard, even, in the sense of merciless. For the fifth beatitude, *Blessed are the merciful*, sounds easy enough until Christ expounds it. We are not merely to show mercy comparatively in the manner of a magistrate reducing a poacher's sentence from hanging to penal servitude. Mercy in the moral universe of the sermon seems to demand total open-heartedness.

"You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I tell you that you should not offer resistance to injury; if a man strikes thee on thy right cheek, turn the other cheek also towards him; if he is ready to go to law with thee over thy coat, let him have it and thy cloak with it" (Matthew 5:38-41).

One feature of the current debate about nuclear weapons is how vociferously certain church leaders have returned to the Christian pacifism of the Sermon on the Mount. Many churchmen seem to say that they object to nuclear weapons but they do not object to "conventional warfare", by which they presumably mean things like the Battle of the Somme and the bombing of Dresden. Others have casuistically, and perhaps wisely, argued that Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount was not directed to nations but to *individuals*. But how does that alter the morality of the case? It is an individual and not a nation who pulls the trigger, or presses the button.

The pacifism of Christ was obviously absolute, not of a "militant" kind. He did not hurl *abuse at centurions*. On the contary, he conversed with them; one of them he regarded as being a man of greater faith than his own fellow-Israelites (Matthew 8:10). It is also true that he told his disciples that they should not set themselves up as judges of other people (Matthew 7:1) But if it is true that St Matthew's Gospel does not anticipate the moral complexities of the nuclear debate, there can be no escaping its absolute rejection of reprisal as a moral principle.

If a society were ordered along the lines of the sermon, it would be necessary not merely to abolish the armed forces, but also the police and the law courts. In social terms, it is a recipe for anarchy. In personal terms, it is loudly and inescapably obvious that Our Lord forbade his followers to defend themselves against attack, just as he forbade them to provide for the future by saving money.

'The quiet serenity of monks who have abandoned the hope of riches and gratification of the flesh'

When I contemplate the lives of other people, I am just about prepared to concede the romantic appeal of all this. Sitting on a commuter train, perhaps, and watching everyone going to work, I see the lecherous businessmen, giving themselves ulcers by overwork, their minds perpetually engaged, even when at home, by the threats of auditors and the hopes of foreign contracts, changes in interest rates and all the arcane movements and mysteries of money. I compare their worried, pampered faces with the quiet serenity that I have seen on the faces of monks who – mad by the standards of the world – have abandoned the hope of riches and the gratifications of the flesh.

I think of promiscuous young women I know, their young faces already raddled with late nights, messy love afairs and too much dope and drink, and compare them with the radiant calm of some of the Christian women I know. In such reveries, the Sermon on the Mount, with all its apparent reversal of common sense, seems luminously sane.

But, to tell the truth, only momentarily so. For the sermon very specifically tells us not to judge other people. It is not addressed to the others. It is addressed to me. And this explains, perhaps, its abiding power over the centuries. I know with perfect certainty that I have not lived my life according to the dictates of this sermon. The example of the great Tolstoy would seen to suggest that these counsels of perfection could not even be attempted without failure. But as soon as the words of Christ shine like a spotlight on one's own condition, rather than on the lives of others, their effect is different.

It may well be the case that I have not tried to practise Christianity, but I am not certain that life has been any the better for that omission. Here I am, stuck in my mid-thirties with the responsibilities of earning a living and providing for a family. It should be very easy to shrug and say, that I have no intention of plunging my children into poverty or adopting the simple life. But Christ's words do not go away as easily as that . *Nor do I think it is* simply because I have heard them since childhood and formed a sentimental attachment to them, while doing next to nothing to put them into practice.

Why is it that, the older one grows, the more topsy-turvy the wisdom of Christ appears; and yet the more it appears to be wisdom? He seems to be looking at life upside down; he tells us that the poor have security, the mourners will be happy, the sexually deprived will be the most fulfilled. It seems, by the wisdom of this world, as if he got everything the wrong way round. But live a bit, and one discovers that this is not necessary the case at all.

If the world itself is inverted, then the only way to see it clearly is upside down. If the values of the world are the wrong way round, then the only way to wisdom is to stand those values on their head. When we say that we lose the idealism of our youth, we often add that moral choice becomes more complicated with age. We speak as if complexity were a good thing and as though moral sight, like eyesight, got better with age. But some of us could see more clearly when we were 16 than when we are 60.

I remember something about accepting the Kingdom as a little child. And I remember my first excitement at Tolstoy's words, "If you wish to be a Christian, you must fulfil these commands, if you do not wish to fulfil them, don't talk of Christianity". The words won't go away. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away".

Extracts from How Can We Know? *to be published by Hamish Hamilton at 695 next month*

Julian Haviland

A winter of Tory discontent

After canvassing in the Southgate by-election, some Tory MPs asked their candidate, Michael Portillo, what more they could do to help. "You could try putting VAT on food", he replied. Their laughter was a little nervous. After Sir Keith Joseph's proposal to make parents help pay student fees, the candidate could be forgiven for thinking he had been encumbered with all the help he could manage.

On Tuesday Portillo waited to take his seat while his fellow Conservatives lined up to sink their fangs into yet another minister. He must have rejoiced that polling day was safely behind him, squeezed in between Sir Keith's and Mr Jenkin's misadventures. When the Commons returns on January 9 there will be more shoals on which the Government could find itself in trouble with its backbenchers.

The Local Government Bill catches the eye. The Government hopes to guide it through almost unchanged, but will not know until late summer if it can. The danger lies in the effort the Bill will cost – the all-night sittings of the Commons standing committee, the hard pounding in the Lords. Few Tory backbenchers love the Bill or think the pain worthwhile.

The restraints on local authority capital spending, as Mr Jenkin learned on Tuesday, will ensure constant friction between ministers and their supporters, in the Commons and the shires. The county council elections in May will keep the temperature high. Most Tories this year seem willing to allow the cuts in rate support. But next year, once resources have been committed to hold down pre-election rate demands, trouble will break out again.

Potentially the most dangerous of the submerged reefs immediately ahead of Mr Jenkins is the prospect of greatly increased water rates, because of the Treasury's demand for higher rates of return on the industry's assets. The Environment Department predicts an average rise of 12 per cent. Some authorities will seek more, and Tory MPs are already cowering in expectation of protests from their constituents. If the MPs suffer, they will make Mr Jenkin suffer too.

By a stroke of luck, Jenkin has a house near Stansted which enabled, indeed required, him to leave that hot potato to his deputy, Ian Gow, and to Nicholas Ridley who, as Transport Secretary, is more senior.

For 20 years ministers have been resisting the pressure to expand Stansted airport, now renewed by the latest report. Either surrender or resistance risks the fury of powerful groups of Conservatives. Ridley until his defeat this week by all-party opposition, was believed to favour Stansted expansion. He should now know that the Commons will not allow it. Perhaps fortunately for him, the Prime Minister does appear to have seen the danger and has decided to take a hand. She is being protective towards Ridley. "Don't be too hard on Nick," she told a backbench deputation last week.

Ridley earns some sympathy for his Stansted problem, which cannot be ducked. But Conservative MPs have watched in bewilderment as he enmeshed himself needlessly with the Civil Aviation Bill. Outside the Transport Department any attempt to legislate to limit aircraft movements at Heathrow, before making a decision about Stansted, seemed futile from the start.

Ridley surprised his friends by his readiness to walk into a cul-de-sac and his reluctance, once blocked, to back out. The episode has weakened him for the handling of his far more important measures, the Buses Bill.

But the most serious discontents on the Government benches flow from the one great and growing anxiety over economic policy, and the related questions of the level and cost of unemployment.

The growing importance of the Chancellor's annual autumn statement now brings an annual season of unhappiness from November, when expenditure cuts are announced, until March, when the Budget may bring joy, at least to some, in tax reliefs.

In late December relief seems far away and fears are freely voiced that Nigel Lawson's next Budget may disappoint. Any extension of VAT *will be unpopular, the pessimists* say: a failure to extend it, after all the Chancellor's talk, will show him to have feet of clay. The same is true of any change in the tax treatment of pensions, a prospect still troubling many Tories.

There is much suppressed unhappiness among Conservatives whose constituents will suffer from the changed basis of regional assistance and the Government's decision to cut £300m from its cost. There is a risk of another rebellion when the new Orders are debated next month.

Among Tory wets there is cynicism about the new enthusiasm for raising tax thresholds. Was it not the previous Chancellor who once failed to raise them even by the level of inflation? Pensioners, who last month found their increases partly offset by lower heating allowances, have been writing hurt letters to Conservative MPs for whom many *of them voted.* The letters strike home.

Again, there is sensitivity at the revival of the idea that unemployment benefit be withheld from young people who decline places in youth training schemes. This has been part of Government thinking for several years, but when Lord Young revives it and the Prime Minister applauds, the backbenchers ask again why they were not consulted.

Norman Tebbit, from his hospital ward, had it just right when he spoke of "the need not to take your own supporters by surprise".

All Governments start to forfeit allegiance the day they take power. Since their backbenchers' goodwill is their blood supply, they normally take pains to conserve it. Instead, ministers in recent weeks have induced one haemorrhage after another. These can be staunched, but they tend to debilitate and to hasten old age. It is no way to carry on. If 1985 is no different, then by 1986 this administration will begin to look senile.

Roy Strong

Exit, blindly, into orchestra pit

Sitting near Lord Drogheda in the royal box at Covent Garden was always an event. One waited for the moment when he produced a little torch and scribbled what became known as a Droghedegram. Never was he more busy, I recall, than during a performance of *Coq d'Or* when a singer's crown came off, at which point she handed it to her attendant. Worse followed, for when the attendant had to move she promptly handed it back, much to the former wearer's surprise. A great carpet was then meant to be unrolled but that too proved to be a disaster.

For the lay person in the audience there is always something hypnotic about watching something go wrong. The root of the fascination resides in the ability or otherwise to rescue the situation beneath a blaze of light and before a thousand eyes. Events off-stage, such as Carabosse's chariot in *Sleeping Beauty* recently getting a parking ticket in Floral Street, do not have exactly the same public consequences as when its wheel fell off on the first night.

I suppose my earliest memory of *such an incident* must be a production of *Dick Whittington* in the mid-Forties in which the ship in the harbour scene had been pushed on too far, revealing that only half of it existed. Once, years later the Christmas tree in *Nutcracker* grew until it vanished almost completely into the fly gallery, only to be lowered back again before an awestruck Clara. So thrown was she that in the ensuing voyage she kept her woollen leg warmers on. And I will long remember the agonies a porter in *Macbeth* went through at the Old Vic as the portcullis stuck.

There is a novel in which one character is described as never having been quite the same since he opened a door and found himself in the middle of the last act of *La Traviata* and unable to get off the stage. The nearest I have seen to that is a buoyar in *Boris Godonov marooned trying to* discover the parting in the curtains at the back of the stage as the action continued unabated.

Shakespearian productions seem more conducive than others to incidents of this kind. Once the lights went up to reveal Dame Edith Evans as Queen Katherine in *Henry VIII* arranged in the tableau with her ladies but, alas, in the dark her chair had fallen over backwards so that all the audience saw was the great actress's knees with foam rubber pads tied to them to enable her to kneel in comfort in the trial scene. She was not amused.

I have an affection too for a theatre-in-the-round production of *Hamlet* at a New England summer school at which I was teaching. The house lights went down and we were on the battlements at Elsinore with the prince awaiting his father's ghost. We did not have to wait long, for in he came through one of the doors used by the audience, followed by two or three late-comers who resolutely followed him as though he were an usherette as he glided his way around the stage.

It is some comfort to know that such gaffes are as old as theatre itself. The trouble is that all we generally have is the official tidied-up accounts of events in the past and rarely an on-the-spot report. We have to guess what really happened by reading between the lines, and it takes a long, learned article to point out that Queen Elizabeth I actually ruined an entertainment written for her by Sir Philip Sidney by awarding the prize to the wrong person.

Occasionally an outsider provides an hilarious picture, as when Saucy John Harington describes calamity pile on calamity at a masque for James I. Everyone, including the cast, was drunk. Plenty emptied her fruits into the king's lap and Peace was able to get on stage only by walloping anyone in the way with her olive branch.

The miracle of theatre in reality is how very little in fact does go awry, bearing in mind the enormous technicalities involved. What a tribute to all those we take for granted, from electricians and scene-shifters to stage managers and dressers. In any case the majority of mistakes anyway would entirely bypass the average onlooker. In this I am reminded of Sybil Thorndike's account of playing Lady Macbeth opposite Lionel Barrymore in 1919. He apparently did not know his lines. "I hurled him across the stage", she said, "shouting them in his ear". No one probably noticed. She had been lent for the occasion the famous dress adorned with beetles' wings which we see in the Sargent portrait of Ellen Terry. The latter had told her: "Don't worry. The dress will see you through". It did.

Sir Roy Strong is director of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

هكذا من الاصل



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AT THE HIGH TABLE

By any measurement of modern international statesmanship Mrs Thatcher's week has been spectacular. She started off with discussions with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, whom Moscow is encouraging the world to believe is the most likely man to succeed President Chernenko. From there she went to Peking, to sign an historic agreement which was the product of patient negotiation during which she was initially criticized by her domestic political opponents for being too hard on the Chinese and then, in Hong Kong, for being too soft. Either way she has established a mutual respect with Mr Deng Xiaoping who is injecting the world's largest nation with a revolutionary (or counter-revolutionary) serum of extraordinary potency. Both these communist leaders, in different ways, may thus be said to have the key to their countries' future. Finally, Mrs Thatcher will today sit down with President Reagan, leader of the world's most powerful nation, with the recent endorsement for four more years of power ringing in his ears.

All three countries are at a turning point in their affairs, though some are more aware of the climacteric than others. If Mrs Thatcher's first conversationalist, Mr Gorbachov, actually succeeds to the leadership of this country, will he be able to halt its decline? Will he be able to turn the malign conservatism of his party's bureaucracy into a positive force for change? Are he or his bureaucrats aware of their historic failure to make the Soviet Union more than a warfare state?

In China on the other hand, Mr Deng is clearly aware of his need to undermine the stultifying tyranny of China's Communist Party bureaucracy and to introduce a market philosophy into the world's largest country. Yet China's vastness will always make it hard to synchronize the rapidity of changing views at the top with the slow moving almost inchoate capacity of 1,200 million people to respond, in their different ways and at a different pace, to contact with the outside world.

So Mrs Thatcher will be able to give Mr Reagan her impressions of the state of affairs in those two countries as seen by their current or potential leaders. Of course, one would expect the President to discuss East West relations with her on the basis of a more systematic analysis of what is going on than remarks such as "I like him. I can do business with him." which are reminiscent of a previous Labour Prime Minister's tendency to claim credit for being on Christian name terms with Mr Brezhnev. Such an approach to the relations between states of such different complexions as those on each side of the East West divide introduce a distorting effect on the reality of diplomacy's potential which such superficialities are bound to induce in Western public opinion.

There may have been some natural satisfaction in London that Britain was to be the first country visited by Mr Gorbachov after his advancement in the Kremlin, and at such an interesting time before the resumption of East West talks. Perhaps this satisfaction outweighed more prudent reminders that, even as a Party man, Mr Gorbachov does not speak officially on Foreign affairs or defence matters in the Politburo.

Nevertheless, for whatever reason, the underlying effect of these discussions was for the British Prime Minister to be used in a skilful piece of Soviet finesse which presented a world-wide audience with an appearance of affinity between the Soviet Union, Britain and her European allies, not just against the idea of the militarization of space, but by extension, against President Reagan's own specific plans for strategic defence against space systems.

The President's thinking on strategic defence, and on how space would be involved goes much deeper into the whole philosophy of nuclear deterrence and security over the next 30 years than one would have concluded from the focus of Anglo-Soviet discussions. The Soviet side was able to pin the subject clearly to expectations about what next month's East West talks on arms control should produce. Washington sought to make some corrective comments but the damage has already been done before either side reaches the start line.

Consequently, Mrs Thatcher will find, today in Washington, that the week which established her supreme credentials as an international statesman, also exposed the risk of an emerging lack of mutual trust between London and Washington at the very moment when such a trust should be welded in bonds of steel for the next three to four years.

In "second-term" Washington, it is certainly possible to detect a feeling that the United States is opening up a gap between itself and the rest of the world, friends, potential friends and potential enemies. The full implications of this gap in philosophy and achievement are only slowly dawning on American public opinion and will take some time to be absorbed elsewhere. The significance of "the gap" should not be overvalued but its existence, and its political implications should clearly not be ignored as we see out the twentieth century and cope with the start of the twenty-first. We may see the major cultures of the world grouping round some particular phase of technology which will ultimately be reflected in the political complexion of that culture. Although economists tend to judge eras by movements in GNP and other aggregates, history is more inclined to denominate periods, from the age of steam to the atomic era – by their dominant products and technologies. As George Gilder, the American writer on semiconductors has observed, "by that measure this is the age of the micro chip."

As she girdled the earth last week, Mrs Thatcher first of all with Mr Gorbachov exemplified the divisions of old Europe. She as the leading stateswoman of Western Europe encapsulated the non-Socialist condition, though even West Europe still grapples with its inheritance, part of which is the proximity of the Soviet bloc. In Europe as a whole, there is a tendency still to react negatively, and certainly to be on the defensive, against the challenges of new technology. It is not likely to find any positive moves to call in the new world to help out the old.

While in China she encountered China's reaction not to the tired old Marxism with a European face, but to the challenge of the micro chip and China's need to respond to the pace forced in the Pacific by Japan and the other mercantile nations moulding their societies in the service of new technology rather than as its masters.

On arrival in Washington, however, Mrs Thatcher would have sensed that the gap that has opened up between East and West Pacific – between the residual socialist cultures there and the approach of non-socialists to the challenge of the future – is no wider than that which the United States is opening up between the non-socialist alternatives both in the Pacific and in West Europe.

The revolutionary potential of the United States is masked by the age of the President. The extraordinary optimism and dynamism of that country suggest that the President's age is an integral part of this revolution and not an anomaly within it. It suggests that Americans have discarded their old cults of ageism and sexism and other inhibitions on their thinking which were for a generation a kind of alibi for lack of achievement. Not since the days of Roosevelt has there been such a sense of a nation on the move, of a new strength in the United States, coming from all classes and all age groups making their own contribution to the country's emerging predominance in the world.

In the long term it will require statesmanship on both sides of the Atlantic to see that this widening gap of achievement based perhaps on two divergent philosophies, does not create impatience in Washington and resentment in Europe. All sorts of unfortunate consequences in the Alliance would ensue many of which would start small and become big. Of such a kind is the mutual discomfort caused by the Thatcher-Gorbachov talks and the White House reaction to them. It has thus been a salutory episode.

THE CROW MAN AS TRIBAL POET

In the fitfully lustrous canon of English Poets Laureate in fact and fiction, the most distinguished figure is indisputably the Fool in "King Lear". None of his successors has achieved as high a level of political relevance, nor commented on passing events in the Royal Family with such memorable and pungent imagery; also, he had the gift of brevity, which we undervalue at the moment only because none of the recent Laureates spread themselves much after they had taken the job on. There is a thunder-and-lightning quality about Mr Ted Hughes which suggests that he is better equipped than most of his predecessors to emulate the achievements of the greatest of them.

What will the appointment do to the Laureateship, and what will it do to Mr Hughes? A sinecure in the Royal Household is likely to seem as much an impediment as a help to most modern poets – putting them in a false position and lulling their raging muse into acquiescence with a pension. The drowsiness which came over Masefield, a man of energy and social conscience, is a standing warning to candidates. But there are muses and muses, and they may feed on surprising food. It has already been remarked that Mr Hughes does not seem cut out for formally celebrating Royal events like yesterday's in St George's Chapel – the traditional function which still bedevils our conception of the job, though Laureates have not been court poets in that sense for at least a century. Or rather, Mr Hughes is so very much cut out for celebrating births, deaths and famous victories in his own way that the imagination rather flinches at what deployment of entrails and bloodflows such topics might evoke.

He is an atavistic poet, insistently fixing his attention on the violence at the roots of nature, and effortfully carving out home-made myths about God and the Crow, resembling chopped-up mixtures of the Niebelungenlied and the Just So Stories. It is a style further from modern everyday life, with its infinitely various and touching detail, than the subject-matter of Betjeman and Larkin. Sometimes in his later work Hughes has been at risk of seeming predictable, even of self-parody. But of course there is something atavistic about the idea of royalty, too. Mr Hughes showed his awareness of that by remarking in his first interview that the Crown was "a symbol of unity of the tribe". He may, unusually among modern laureates, be one for whom the idea of being a tribal poet may prove a powerful stimulus to the imagination.

What it means to be a tribal poet today is very much more than making victory-chants in the mead-hall. It is likely to mean committees, letters to the press, television interviews on topics of literary interest, and generally putting on something like Yeats's mask of the "sixty-year old, smiling public man". It would be a pity if all this came to seem a necessary part of the office, which may at times be best honoured by an almost silent but deeply revered sage, and at others by a Fool in danger of the stocks. But usually the Laureate today will be expected to talk as well as sing for his supper – more so, in fact. A public position implies a political stance, in the widest sense, even if it remains an implicit one. It was an enduring misconception that Betjeman was an unwordly figure with a talent to amuse, but nothing to say: that appearance was the means he adopted to put his point across. In the "unacknowledged legislator" line, everyday poets may change the world more than more overtly challenging ones. Every significant poet has to learn how to communicate what he finds needs saying with the means at his disposal: Mr Hughes is the first for some time whose temperament and strengths are of a type where it is possible that he may not only be good for the Laureateship, but that the Laureateship may also be good for him as a poet.

Attitudes to work

From Mr Nicholas Bennett

Sir, Dr J. A. Richardson (December 12) should not attempt to refute your assertion (leading article, December 6) that "many individuals" of school-leaving age prefer to take state benefits rather than look for work by arguing from a limited number of particular cases.

For what it is worth, my own experience as senior master at a Chatham secondary school, an area of higher than average unemployment, tends to support your underlying premise. A substantial minority of about 20 per cent of fifth-year pupils openly proclaim their intention of living on "the chat" (the local name for the dole) when they leave school.

Considerable efforts are made by the school and careers office staff to dissuade pupils from such an irresponsible course and to equip them with a positive attitude towards work. In the main we are successful; fewer former pupils are unemployed than in comparable schools in the area, but the problem does exist and will continue to exist whilst state benefits are available to school leavers as an alternative to training or employment.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS BENNETT,
22 Almond Grove,
Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Obstacles in way of recovery

From the Director-General of The Association of British Chambers of Commerce

Sir, This association has worked closely with Patrick Jenkin and his predecessors in developing a cost-effective urban programme and has supported, in principle, the 1984 Rates Act and the current Local Government Bill. It therefore saddens us to have to criticise vigorously three decisions recently taken by the Department of the Environment, each of which has been condemned by numbers of the Government's parliamentary supporters, and each appearing to have been forced on the department by the Treasury.

First, the seemingly unjustifiable rises in water rates, where final details are yet to be resolved but which are expected to range between 10 per cent and 20 per cent, will add significantly to the costs of certain sectors of industry, such as the battered textile industry.

Second, the rate-support grant for 1985-86, on which final decisions at local level will also not be reached for two or three months, clearly threatens double-figure increases in a number of important industrial areas. The Government and the tarnished local government finance system must obviously share responsibility with local councils' reluctance to cut their spending: in the end business will pay and its competitiveness be impaired.

Finally, there has been the latest restraint on local authority capital spending, adding further to the difficulties of the construction industry, which has been equally battered by lack of demand. Our members will sympathise with the "voodoo economics" description: a more prosaic Chamber executive in the North-east saw the announcement as "unnecessary and unbelievable".

What business finds it hard to understand is how a Government which has made significant contributions to the reduction of industrial costs can now be forcing those costs up. Similarly, when increasingly numbers of Government MPs are urging the need to refurbish the national infrastructure, capital programmes are reined back for no apparent reason.

We have consistently argued the need for such programmes to be determined over a longer term than, sadly, has been the case in recent years, and we endorse the recent call by the Institution of Civil Engineers, further supported by the Policy Studies Institute, for a broad framework of strategic planning of such programmes, rather than the present compartmentalised approach.

This may, perhaps, have been a fitting way to end 1984, but urgent remedies are required in 1985.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. TAYLOR, Director-General,
The Association of British Chambers of Commerce,
Sovereign House,
212a Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2.
December 20.

Johnson Matthey

From Mr Patrick Brenan and Mr Martin Harper

Sir, In his open letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance and Industry, December 20) Dr David Owen sets out some estimates which, he believes, show that the bullion business of Johnson Matthey Bankers Limited has lost money and may continue to do so.

Dr Owen's figures, and therefore his conclusions, are wrong. The newly appointed directors now have sufficient information to confirm that JMB's bullion business not only has been profitable but remains so. The losses are overwhelmingly attributable to bank lending of poor quality. Lending money is easy. Lending in the confident expectation of punctual repayment is another matter.

The new board, with able help from the staff and from other banks, is making progress. It would be a great pity of the job were made more difficult by wrong conclusions based on incorrect data.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK BRENAN,
MARTIN HARPER (Directors),
Johnson Matthey Bankers Limited,
5 Lloyds Avenue, EC3.
December 21.

EEC voting rules

From Sir Kenneth Christofas

Sir, Your "European notebook" today (December 17) attributes to the outgoing President of the European Commission, M Gaston Thorn, the belief that the European Community's problems will not be solved until the Council of Ministers applies the system of majority voting.

What the proponents of this thesis often conveniently overlook is that the treaty itself requires unanimity for the adoption of a very large number of decisions, including all new policy decisions, such as those so often taken under article 235 of the EEC treaty. Indeed there are more articles in the EEC treaty which require unanimity for the taking of decisions than there are articles which permit decisions to be taken by qualified majority voting.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH CHRISTOFAS,
3 The Ridge,
Bolsover Road,
Eastbourne,
Sussex.
December 17.

Gnomic question

From Mrs Pamela Wilford-Smith

Sir, "There you go". How come?

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA WILFORD-SMITH,
Stanway,
Dormington,
Hereford.
December 18.

Keeping control of heavy lorries

From Mr Dave Wetzel

Sir, You are right to say (leading article, December 14) that controlling heavy lorries is "exactly the kind of function that a properly founded London-wide authority should be exercising". However, you are quite wrong to suggest that the current ban proposal is irresponsible or has been arrived at with anything other than due seriousness and proper justification.

It is now more than three years since the GLC set up an independent inquiry, under Derek Wood, QC, which reported in July, 1983. You are also wrong to suggest that the inquiry panel "made sharply divergent predictions" about night and weekend bans. In this respect, the report was unanimous, specifically supported by the two representatives of road freight transport on the panel.

Our work since then has been to build on this consensus and work up a detailed scheme to meet the needs of industry and the environment. This process has been undertaken openly in a series of public committee reports and meetings as well as a huge consultation exercise with commerce and industry.

In this context your charge of irresponsibility is an unwarranted slur, not just on GLC members but on the team of professionals who have used the unique resources of the council to develop our proposal.

Is it irresponsible to devise an exemption system to provide for the supply of perishable foods to London's traditional markets, or for necessary raw materials for London's industry? Is it irresponsible to research what steps can be taken to make heavy lorry operations quieter through driver training, better maintenance or the fitting of properly designed "hush kits"? Is it irresponsible to maximize use of the M25, not just for through traffic but for vehicles delivering or collecting goods for London?

I believe that any reasonable person who has seen or heard the evidence would agree that three and a half years of research, consultation, independent imquiry and public scrutiny have been enough to produce a scheme which offers positive benefits for Londoners at a minimum cost.

We do not consider that more will be learned until we implement the scheme and enter into our permit agreements with lorry operators. Ours is not a token scheme – it is the Secretary of State for Transport who is indulging in petty politicking to the detriment of the people of London.

Yours for socialism,
DAVE WETZEL, Chairman,
Transport Committee,
Greater London Council,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1.
December 17.

From Mr John Wardroper

Sir, In your leader of December 14, "A lorryload of trouble", you say there is "no great logic" in opposing a weight increase from 38 to 40 tonnes, because "overall weight is a less important factor in causing damage . . . than axle-weight". But if two extra tonnes are loaded on an identical five-axle lorry, as is proposed, axle-loads necessarily go up. As the road-damaging effect is exponential, it is increased by more than 30 per cent.

Furthermore, that is on the assumption that the load is perfectly distributed. In fact, the single drive-axles of these lorries are often badly overloaded even when they are running at 38 tonnes. With the extra tonnes, the drive-axles would often be hitting the road with 13, 14 and even 15 tonnes, according to county officials who do roadside weighing.

At 14 tonnes an axle does more than *three times* the damage of the present 10.5 legal maximum. No wonder Nicholas Ridley's predecessor, David Howell, declared when deciding on 38 tonnes: "The overall road damage potential of the 40-tonne lorry is larger."

As for bridges: ever since 38-tonners came on our roads on May 1, 1983, their drive-axles and their trailers have been imposing extra strains on many hundreds of bridges with certain critical span-lengths (under six metres and over 70 metres). Forty-tonners would impose even greater strains.

It is true that bridges can be strengthened or replaced. However, the Department of Transport has not yet even got round to deciding how to carry out a national survey to discover what needs to be done to make bridges safe for our present lorries.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WARDROPER,
60 St Paul's Road, N1.
December 16.

Polytechnic troubles

From Dr John Marks

Sir, Your welcome editorial on the Polytechnic of North London (December 13) shows a realistic grasp of the complexities of left-wing politics which have dominated its affairs over the last fourteen years of endemic conflict and disruption. But may I correct you on one point?

It would not be a victory but a defeat for the far left if the polytechnic were to close. What the far left at PNL want, and have at the moment, is an institution – funded annually by nearly £20 million of public money – in which they are the dominating influence.

What they fear most is the closure of the polytechnic and the adoption of what is increasingly becoming the only viable alternative – the relocation of its sound departments in healthier academic environments elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MARKS,
2 Melbury Road,
Harrow,
Middlesex.
December 14.

Airlines policy

From the Chairman of the Air Transport Users' Committee

Sir, In his article headed "Extra Gatwick runway sought" (December 8) your Transport Editor must have misunderstood what was said at the Air Transport Users' Committee's press conference last Friday.

We did not say that "the recent Government carve-up of routes between British Airways and British Caledonian was potentially damaging to the air traveller". We indicated that too much had been made of the international route swops when the crux of the White Paper was that British Airways would keep and be able to expand its services from regional airports.

Passengers would be likely to lose out if BA runs into hard times and, as happened four years ago, cuts back or abandons regional routes in order to concentrate on its main hub at Heathrow. Better to have independent airlines dedicated to building their own hub at the major regional airports, as recommended by the Civil Aviation Authority in its report on airline competition policy.

Yours faithfully,
GARNOCK, Chairman,
Air Transport Users' Committee,
129 Kingsway, WC2.
December 11.

Leaving Unesco

From Mr Conn Nugent

Sir, Mr G. Frost (November 8) alleges that this organisation "favours unilateral Western gestures and treats the superpowers as if they were morally equivalent". As executive director I would like to comment on our position.

IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Inc) was founded, and operates today, for the sole purpose of educating the world about the medical consequences of the nuclear arms race. Ours is a non-political federation of 34 national affiliates representing more than 105,000 physicians (about one third in the USSR and one third in the USA). We communicate the same information to both East and West. We do not criticize the specific policies of any government.

At our fourth congress in Helsinki earlier this year, messages of greeting and support were received from President Chernenko, President Reagan, and Pope John Paul II and many other world leaders. An appeal from the congress was sent to both Mr Reagan and Mr Chernenko.

The message suggested that independent initiatives inviting reciprocation might be a way of breaking the deadlock that exists in arms-control negotiations.

To imply, as Mr Frost does, that an even-handed appeal to both superpowers somehow aligns us to one and pits us against the other is both illogical and unworthy.

Yours etc,
CONN NUGENT, Executive Director,
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Inc,
225 Longwood Avenue,
Boston, MA 02115, USA.

The ring cycle

From Mr Hugh Leggatt

Sir, Mrs J. C. Marno in her letter (December 17) says that the problem of auction rings "seems no nearer to being eradicated".

Whilst this is true,I must emphasize that the problem will never be solved until the Government has the will to do so. Mrs Marno refers to the "Duccio ring" of 1968, but appears to have forgotten that the main blame for failure to institute legal proceedings against that earlier conspiracey was laid fairly and squarely at the door of the Board of Trade by the Ombudsman at that time. I should know since I was then the Chairman of the Society of London Art Dealers who, through two members of Parliament, referred the matter to him.

I just wonder whether the present scandal concerning a Queen Anne bookcase is going to be another example of *plus ça change plus c'est la même chose?*

Yours faithfully,
HUGH LEGGATT,
Leggatt Brothers,
Fine Art Dealers,
17, Duke Street,
St James's, SW1.
December 17.

Child abuse

From Dr Hugh Jolly

Sir, Peter Ackroyd, in his review today (December 19) of Nigel Evans's documentary, *Taking the Lid Off*, a film in which abused children talked about their experiences, has answered his own question as to what is the purpose, and the result, of displaying private grief for the benefit of a television audience. He fails to understand that the abuse of children by their parents and its causes are public, not private.

He asks, how were the children persuaded to appear on television and do we have the right to ask them to reveal themselves in front of television. I would believe that they did not require persuasion to take part because, perhaps for the first time, they trusted those caring for them. This led them to be able to talk about their experiences, an important aspect of therapy.

That the public should be helped to understand the causes of child abuse is essential to its prevention.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH JOLLY,
Hon Consulting Paediatrician,
Charing Cross Hospital,
Fulham Palace Road, W6.

How to help our historic homes

From Mr A. M. Alexander

Sir, Mr Fleetwood-Hesketh (December 16) has identified a very real problem with regard to the preservation of the national heritage with particular reference to Kedleston. He has, however, attributed the difficulties to taxation policies rather than past history and people.

He asks for private houses to be made free of capital transfer tax. We would all wish that taxation was moved away from our own assets and income and on to those of others. In the context of the heritage, however, what he asks for already exists.

The exemption afforded to heritage property under the capital transfer tax regime is such that, if the owner is prepared to put up with the inconvenience of public access, no tax whatsoever need be levied on the great houses of England and their contents.

That exemption of itself is insufficient. These houses require massive maintenance; and recognising this, since 1980, the Government has provided an effective medium, through the Maintenance Fund regime, to give similar exemption to the necessary endowment fund to support the houses, even though both remain in private ownership.

Even this is not enough. The deprivations of past fiscal legislation still linger on, and it is this problem that afflicts Kedleston and other great houses like Calke.

There is still room for further Government assistance, whether through the National Heritage Memorial Fund or the newly created English Heritage Commission. Moreover there will always be cases where the owners, for whatever reason, as in the case of Calke or Kedleston, fail to take the preservative action which would have been available to them.

For those cases it is encumbent upon the Government firstly to educate the owners, and do everything possible to persuade them to take advantage of the reliefs that are available, and secondly it must adopt a generous attitude to ensure preservation of those properties that still fail to fall within the letter of available exemptions, whether because of archaic settlements, or the simple inertia that seems to afflict some of their owners in coming to terms with fiscal impositions; particularly when this might involve not only lawyers fees, but also opening themselves to the public gaze!

Yours faithfully,
A. M. ALEXANDER,
Royds Barfield, Solicitors,
2 Crane Court, EC4.
December 20.

Plight of Vietnamese

From Mr Christopher Macy

Sir, The present plight of the Vietnamese (report, December 18) could have been predicted by anyone who knew the history of such migrations. The decision to disperse them was a disaster. It is known that the incidence of psychological disturbance is far higher in migrants who are deprived of the support of their own communities. So-called ghettos have their advantages.

Furthermore, it is understandable that psychiatric medicine will not help because it is not what is needed. Psychological therapy and community treatment is the method of choice for these sad people, who are not, in the main, psychiatrically ill.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MACY,
(Senior Clinical Psychologist),
Rauceby Hospital,
South Lincolnshire Health Authority,
Sleaford,
Lincolnshire,
December 18.

Spirit of Christmas

From Mrs Angela Howard-Johnston

Sir, For three years running I have failed to find in Oxford a traditional midnight service on Christmas Eve. My disappointment culminated at the University Church last year where the "Nativity service" was such a dreadful hybrid that several people walked out in protest.

I wish I could find a Church of England church within 50 miles of this city where, this year, I might be lucky enough to find the following:

1. No requests to shake hands with members of the congregation in the contemporary cocktail party fashion.
2. Candlelight instead of bright lights.
3. Traditional words and carols rather than modern "improvements" illegibly photocopied on bits of paper, and the calling upon us to turn to a numbered "section" even for the blessing.

It would be an especial Christmas treat to make use of the Prayer Book again.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA HOWARD-JOHNSTON,
Pullens End,
Pullens Lane,
Headington,
Oxford.
December 13.

Undiscovered country

From Mr J. H. B. Gowan

Sir, My grandson aged four proudly announced that his part in the school nativity play was to be a leopard. His mother thought it a bit odd but assumed they were livening things up with a few new animals.

However, when his costume arrived for fitting it was a shepherd. He knew about leopards from his picture books, but had never heard of a shepherd!

Yours truly,
JAMES GOWAN,
1 Syke Ings,
Iver,
Buckinghamshire.
December 12.



COURT CIRCULAR

December 21: The Baptism of the Infant Son of The Prince and Princess of Wales was administered at 11.30am today in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Dean of Windsor, baptized the Infant Prince, who received the names of Henry Charles Albert David.

The Sponsors were: The Prince Andrew, Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, the Lady Vestey, Mrs William Bartholomew, Mr Bryan Organ and Mr Gerald Ward.

Mr Christopher Robinson (Organist and Composer) and the Clerks and Choristers of St George's Chapel were in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. G. Braithwaite and Miss A. A. Swift

The engagement is announced between Gareth, son of Mr and Mrs A. Braithwaite, of Warley, Yorkshire, and Anita, eldest daughter of Professor and Mrs D. F. M. Swift, of Woodstock, Oxfordshire, and Hong Kong.

Mr H. Clifford and Miss C. C. Johnson

The engagement is announced between Hugh, only son of Captain and Mrs J. A. Clifford, of Pinner, Middlesex, and Charlotte Clare, elder daughter of Mr R. F. Johnson, BVSc, MRCVS, and Mrs Johnson, of Callipers Hall Farm, Chipperfield, Hertfordshire.

Mr P. G. Jackson and Ms M. L. Ferguson

The engagement is announced between Peter George, son of Mr and Mrs G. Jackson, of Cleckheaton, and Melanie Louise, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs W. H. Spencer, of Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Mr M. Moss and Miss R. C. Harker

The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mrs Mary Moss, of Hurlingham, London, SW, and the late Mr Malcolm Moss, and Rosemary Clare, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs T. E. D. Harker, of Lynton Lodge, Coronation Road, Ascot.

Mr Q. S. J. Robbins and Miss J. D. Robinson

The engagement is announced between Quentin, son of Mr and Mrs S. H. Robbins, of Thulston, Derby, and Jayne, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. W. Robinson of Bulwell, Nottingham.

Mr R. E. N. Travers and Miss S. J. McGeough

The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Mr and Mrs D. S. V. Travers, of West Horsley, Surrey, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian McGeough, of Mill Hill, London.

West Hill Park

The governors have appointed Mr M. A. *Elmitt*, Housemaster of Court House, Canford, to succeed Mr C. C. Evers as Headmaster of West Hill Park in September 1985.

Forgotten sense of being of God

What is God? Can a reasonable person believe in God any more? Marxist Leninism regards the rejection of God as essential to its creed. That may not be very surprising. But there are philosophers and even theologians who apparently say that we can no longer believe in a real, objective God. Is belief in God some sort of outmoded superstition, now discarded by the wise?

Things may be even worse than that. It is not that people know what God is, and have decided to reject him. It seems that very few people even know what the orthodox, traditional idea of God, shared by Judaism, Islam and Christianity, is. They have not the slightest idea what is meant by the word God.

It just has no sense or possible *place* in their lives. Instead, they either invent some vague idea of a cosmic force with no practical implications at all; or they appeal to some half-forgotten childhood picture of a bearded superperson, constantly interfering with the mechanistic laws of nature. Many people, even many Christians, remain unaware of what their own theological tradition really teaches about God.

Nothing is more important in religion today than to recover a knowledge of the traditional idea of God, basically shared by Aquinas, Maimonides and al-*Ghazali, the major philosophers* of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions. Lack of the knowledge has led to disas*trously naive ideas of God, and* to a misunderstanding of what these faiths are about, when they talk of worshiping God.

For worshipping God is not telling some very powerful, invisible person how good he is, in the hope that he will pat you on the head and give you eternal life. It is simply the reverent awareness of the being of God, as it truly is. But that is what we have forgotten.

Putting it with unbearable brevity, God is not a very wise and powerful person, watching us balefully from some Olympian height. God is a unique, infinite and eternal reality, beyond all human power to describe adequately, yet expressed *in and through* the finite things of space and time.

There can be no question of proving that such a reality exists, in the sense that we might one day come across it, like some extremely remote object in space. What needs to bee done is to develop a sense that the world of finite things is able to express an infinite reality beyond and yet also fusing it. We need to learn to see things as pointing beyond themselves, as sacramental of a *supreme reality and value*, as visible images of eternity.

What can help us to evoke such a sense is not science or philosophy, but poetry or music. The language of religion is like the language of poetry; and it is a major heresy of post-*Enlightenment rationalism* to try to turn poetry into pseudo-science, to turn the images of religion, whose function is to evoke eternity, into mundane descriptions of improbable facts.

So the immensely evocative image of 'the Eternal' (as God is very often called, in the Hebrew Bible, the Old Testament) is perversely twisted into the mundane superstition of the peevish old man in the sky. When that superstition is rightly rejected, it is not God which is rejected; but a pseuso-scientific misunderstanding of language about God, which misses the point of religious faith entirely.

In a sense, then, atheism is right, but only *in its rejection of* a God who never was, and of a belief which never touched the heart of religious faith.

Religious understanding has reached its nadir when even a responsible theologian can say that belief in an objective God must be given up. The deeper question is, what is meant by objectivity? And what sort of objectivity is in question here?

The contemplative awareness of the unlimited, beyond name and form, which traditional *theism seeks to instil, is the* realization of true objectivity. It is the just perception of what most truly is; and of how far it stands beyond our analytical understanding.

Thus one key-term Aquinas uses for God is "esse *subsistens*": *being existing of* itself alone, entire and underived. Or, in Boethius's evocative phrase "the ocean of unlimited existence, perfectly possessed."

This is certainly not objective existence, understood as that of one finite object among others in space-time. But to deny that it is existence at all, that it is a form of reality before which human existence is disclosed as poised, trembling, between being and *non-being, is to cut* off religious understanding at its root.

Of course this idea of God is difficult to grasp; it is the furition of years of contemplative prayer and self-*transcendence. But to forget or* discard that tradition is to close ourselves off from some of the most profound discoveries of the human spirit.

To learn to appreciate it is to transfigure our vision of existence. *The contemporary* religious problem is not to decide whether or not God exists. It is to learn again patiently and *sensitively, what* the great theologians of our tradition have meant by the concept of God.

Keith Ward

F. D. Maurice Professor of Theology, London University.

His new master: Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, in his office yesterday with Spot, a 14-week-old Jack Russell terrier. The pup was a Christmas present to replace his much-loved Mini, which died earlier this year.

Services tomorrow

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: HC, 8; M, 10.30, Benedicite (Ashfield in F), Jub. Chant, Rev G. Routledge; 11.30, The Short Service (Batten) Int. A spotless rose (Howells). E, 3.15, Mag and Nunc Dimittis (Ammer) Caesar's Service. A. The night is departing (Mendelssohn) Deaconess J. Woollcombe.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: HC, 8; M, 10.30, Benedicite (Dyson in F). And the Glory of the Lord (Handel), Mr M. Bax. Sung Eucharist, 11.40 (Duruflé) Missa cum jubilo; E3 (Walton), Chichester Canticles; Rev S. Charles: Organ Recital, 5.55; ES, 6.30, The Dean.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: HC, 9; Eucharist 11. A. Adoremus in aeternum (Allegri). A Zion hears her watchmen's voices (Bach), Canon Parrott; Christmas Carol Service 3.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: Mass, 10.30; Mass XVII (Plainsong) Ave verum (Philips); Vespers, 3.30, mag. secundi toni (Anon) Vox dicentis (Naylor).
CHAPEL ROYAL ST JAMES'S: HC, 8.30; MP, 11.15, A. Rejoice in the Lord always (Purcell), Rev W. J. Booth.
THE QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY (public welcomed): Service of lessons and carols, 11.15.
GUARDS CHAPEL, WELLINGTON BARRACKS: M, 11, Rev L. E. M. Claxton; HC 12.
TOWER OF LONDON (public welcomed): Carol Service (state dress), 11.15; HC, 12.20.
TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street (public welcomed): HC, 8.30; MP, 11.15; Benedicite omnia opera (Sumsion in D), Benedictus (Thalben-Ball in G), A: Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell). The Reader; Organ Voluntary.
ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) (public welcomed): HC, 8.30; M, 11; Venite 8.21 (Ouseley), Benedicite (Sumsion in B flat), Benedictus D.4 (Thalben-Ball) A. This is the record of John (Gibbons), Resident Chaplain; HC, 12.15.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: HC, 8.30; M, 11; Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon). The Chaplain; Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 3.30. (Admission by ticket).
ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: Sung Eucharist, 11, Rev M Beech; Service of Lessons and Carols by Candlelight, 4.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place: HC, 9.30; A Christmas Message, 11, Rev J Stott; Church Family Communion, 6.30, Rev M Lawson.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street: LM, 8 and 5.15; M, 10.20; HM, 11; Mass for Four Voices (Byrd), Rev J S W Young; Solemn E, Sermon and Benediction, 6. Faburdens (Byrd).
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH: HC, 8 and noon; 11, Rev C E L Thomson; Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 5.30.
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: HC, 8.15; Sung Eucharist, 11; Missa Super Freue Thibauer (Lassus), Ave virgo gloriosa (Dering), Ecce concipcibus (Handl), Rev Dr A W Marks.
HOLY TRINITY, Brompton: HC, 8; HC (sung), 9; M, 11, Rev J D Irvine; ES, 6.30, Rev P J S Perkin.
HOLY TRINITY, Prince Consort Road: HC, 8.30 and 12.05; Choral MP, 11, Rev C Laurence.
HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street (Sloane Square Tube): HC, 8.30; The Eucharist, 10.30, Canon Roberts; HC, 12.10.
ST ALBAN'S, Holborn: SM, 9.30; HM, 11, Fr Gaskell; Mass of St Dominic (Rubbra), Rejoice in the Lord (Anon); LM, 5.30.
ST BARTHOLOMEW-THE-GREAT PRIORY (AD 1123): HC 9; M 11, Causton (Short Service) A, Rejoice in the Lord (Redford). The Rector; E (Said) 6; Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30.
ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street: HC 8.30; Choral M and Eucharist 11. Benedicite (Jackson in G), Kyries: Wood in The Phrygian mode; Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30.
ST CYPRIAN, Clarence Gate, Glentworth St, NW1: LM 8; M, 10.30; HM 11, Rev P. R. Harding.
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square: HC 8.30; Sung Eucharist 11; Vaughan Williams in G. O for a closer walk with God (Stanford). The Rector; Service of Nine Lessons with Carols 6.
ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: HC 8.30; Sung Eucharist 11. *Festival of Lessons and Carols* with the St James's Singers 6.30. The Rector.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster: HC 8.15 and 12.15; M 11, Canon Beeson; Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols 6.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: HC 8; *Family Communion* 9.45, N. Ingram-Smith; MS 11.30, Rev C. H. Hedley; Salvation Army carol service 3; Carol Service 6.30.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street: LM 8, 9.45, 7; HM 11, Missa quand to nene (Lassus); Ave Maria (Arcadelt); Ecce concipies (Handl). Fr J. Gilling; E and Solemn *Benediction* 6.15.
ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington: HC, 8, 12.30; Sung Eucharist, 9.30, The Vicar; M, 11.15, Rev P M Arnold; E (said), 4.30; carols, readings, blessing of the Crib, 6.30.
ST MARYLEBONE PARISH CHURCH: HC 8 and 11, Rev R. McLaren; Missa quinque vocibus (Byrd), A hymn to the Virgin (Britten); Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight 6.30.
ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square: HC 8.15; M 11, Rev A. G. C. Pearson; HC 6.30pm, Canon de Berry.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge: *HC 8 and 9; Solemn Eucharist 11; Mass of the quiet hour* (G. Oldroyd), Magnificat in G (Stanford), Angelus ad virginem (Willcocks), Rev R. G. Russell.
ST PAUL'S, Robert Adam Street: 11, Rev G. Cassidy; HC 6.30, Rev G. Cassidy.
ST PETER'S, EATON SQUARE: HC 8.15; Family Mass, 10; Solemn Mass 11, Rev A Chidwick; short communion service (Tallis); A call to remembrance, O Lord (Farrant); Nine Lessons and carols 6.30; Boys' choir.
ST SIMON ZELOTES, CHELSEA: HC, 8; MP, 11; Dean of Westminster; Carols, 6.30.
ST STEPHEN'S, GLOUCESTER ROAD: LM, 8, 9; H M Missa Secunda (Hassler), Prebendary H Moore; Solemn E and Benediction 6, Rev R Browne.
ST VEDAST, FOSTER LANE: SM, 11, Plainsong Mass, Thus saith the Lord (Handel) Canon French-Beytagh.
ST COLUMBA'S (Church of Scotland) Pont Street: 11; Sunday school Gift Service, the very Rev Dr J Fraser McLuskey; 6.30 the Very Rev Dr J Fraser McLuskey.
CROWN COURT CHURCH (Church of Scotland) Russell Street, Covent Garden: 11.15 and 6.30, Rev J Miller Scott.
THE ORATORY, SW7: LM, 7, 8, 9, 10; HM 11, Missa Dixit Maria (Hassler), Aspiciens a longe (Handl); LM, 12.30, 4.30, 7; Vespers 3.30, Creator Alme (Dufay), Lessons and carols, 4.30 (in Little Oratory).
ST ANSELM AND CECILIA, Kingsway: Solemn Latin Mass, 11; Missa "Trahe me post te" (Victoria), Excita potentiam Tuam (Hollander).
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place (Holborn Circus): SM, 11, (Dundas-Grant); Slavonic 3; Russian Orthodox Chant, Mode 1; Rorate coeli.
THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick St (Regent St) W1: LM, 8, 10; SM, 11, Missa O quam gloriosum (Vittoria), Crux fidelis (King John), Locus iste (Bruckner); LM, noon, 4 and 6.
CHURCH OF OUR LADY, St John's Wood: SM, (Latin) 10.45, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Rorate coeli, (Byrd), Magnificent (Cassus).
THE JESUIT CHURCH, Farm Street: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 11 (Sung Latin Mass): Missa brevis (Gabrieli), Agnus Dei Morley), Dixit Maria (Hassler), organ: mass 12.15, 4.15, 6.15.
REGENT SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: (United Reformed), Tavistock Place: 11, 6.30, Rev J Miller; E S Carols by Candlelight.
ST JOHN'S WOOD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (Presbyterian/Congregationalist), Lord's Roundabout, NW8: 9.30am Rev J Miller.
CENTRAL HALL, Westminster: 11 and 6.30 Night of wonder Rev Dr R John Tudor.
WEST LONDON MISSION, Hinde Street Methodist Church, W1: 11, Rev K Howcroft; 6.30 lessons and carols.
CITY TEMPLE, Holborn Viaduct: EC 11, Rev Dr B Johanson; 6.30, Rev C Flashman.
WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate: 11 and 6.30, Rev Dr R T Kendall.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road: 11, Rev R C Gibbins.

Birthdays

TODAY: Air Chief Marshal Sir John Aiken, 63; Dame Peggy Ashcroft, 77; Mr James Burke, 48; Dr Alan Bush, 84; the Right Rev Cyril Easthaugh, 87; Mr Noel Edmunds, 36; Miss Patricia Hayes, 75; Air Vice-Marshal Sir Edgar Lowe, 79; Mr Michael Molloy, 44; Mr Chris Old, 36; the Rev Lord Sandford, 64; the Duke of Westminster, 33; Colonel W.H. Whitbread, 84; the Very Rev J.H. Wild, 80.

TOMORROW: Lord Bancroft, 62; Mrs C. Bicknell, 65; Mr Archibald Black, 77; *Lord Blake, 68; Vice-*Admiral Sir Stephen Carlill, 82; Professor Sir Theodore Crawford, 73; Mr Maurice Denham, 75; Mr Richard Findlater, 63; Mr Christopher Lawrence, 48; Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Macnab, 85; Miss J.M. Quennell, 61; Herr Helmut Schmidt, 66; Mr Rayner, 59.

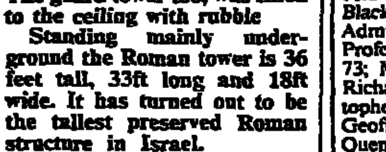
Dinner

Brian Colquhoun and Partners

Mr Hugh O'Donnell, senior partner of Brian Colquhoun and Partners, and Mrs O'Donnell, Mr Philip Rushton, deputy senior partner, and *Mrs Rushton* and partners entertained members of their staff and guests at a dinner and dance at the Dorchester hotel on Thursday, December 20, 1984.

Latest appointments

Mr Nicholas Brown, aged 34, *Labour MP for Newcastle-upon-*Tyne East, to be an additional Labour spokesman on legal affairs under Mr John Morris. He was formerly legal officer for the northern region of the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trade Unions, and a member of Newcastle City Council.



Science report

Jerusalem's Roman history unearthed

New York Times News Service – Jerusalem – Israel archaeologists have excavated the main Roman entry way *into old Jerusalem* and succeded in unearthing a guard tower, the tallest preserved Roman structure in the country.

In the second century A.D., the Emperor Hadrian erected a huge column apparently topped by a statue of himself in the square just inside the main gateway to what was *then the* Roman Jerusalem and what is now known as the Old City.

The column served as the *starting point for measuring* all distances in the region, and was considered the main architectural feature of Hadrian's Jerusalem, which he called Aeolia Capitolina.

Modern archeologists wre aware of the column's existence and its exact placement because of a sixth-century mosaic map of the Holy Land that was uncovered years ago in the ruins of a Greek Orthodox church in the tiny Jordanian village of Madaba. The map clearly showed the outline of sixth-century Jerusalem, with a tall column in the plaza just behind the main gate and the streets branching out from it.

To this day the main entry way to the Old City, the Turkish-built Damascus Gate, is still referred to by the city's arabs as Bab al-Amud, the gate of the column.

In 1979 Jerusalem's city fathers, led by the Mayor, Mr Teddy Kollek, decided that as *part of a general project to the* Damascus Gate area they would try to unearth the original Roman entry way below it.

Mr Menahem Magen, an Israeli archaeologist, was commissioned to excavate the main Roman entryway into the Old City, which originally consisted of two small archways flanked by a large main gate, through which 10,000 people pass every day.

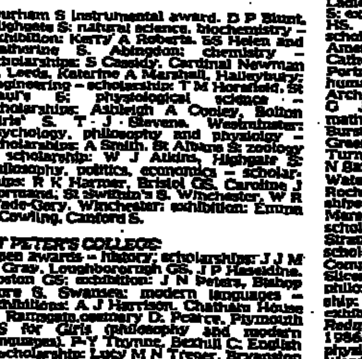
He knew exactly where the Roman gate was situated thanks to British archaeologists who had uncovered the facade, in the 1930s. But just inside the facade, the gate was completely filled with rubble and concrete packed there by the Turks when they were building the Damascus Gate above.

Once the gateway had been cleared, Mr Magen and his team decided to continue burrowing, which led them to a Roman guard tower, also *shown on the Madaba map*, which stood just to the east of the second-century entry way. The guard tower too, was filled to the ceiling with rubble

Standing mainly underground the Roman tower is 36 feet tall, 33ft long and 18ft wide. It has turned out to be the tallest preserved Roman structure in Israel.

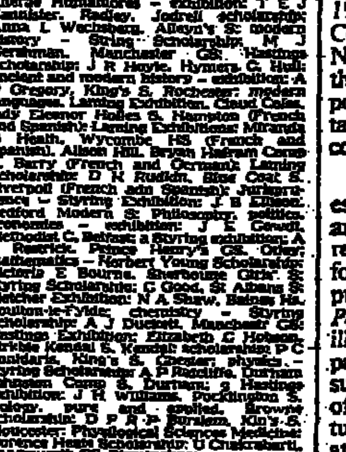
Oxford college awards

The following awards have been made by Oxford colleges:









MERTON COLLEGE: [illegible]

WORCESTER COLLEGE: [illegible]

NEW COLLEGE: [illegible]

Durham S instrumental award. D P Blunt, Highgate S: natural science, biochemistry – exhibition: Kerry A Roberts, SS Helen and Katharine S, Abingdon: chemistry – scholarships: S Cassidy, Cardinal Newman [illegible]

ST PETER'S COLLEGE: [illegible]

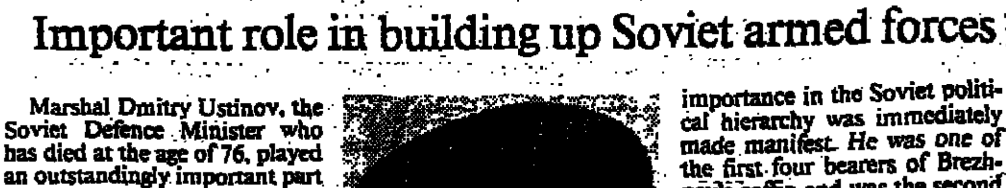
MAGDALEN COLLEGE: [illegible]

Hammersmith: engineering science: T H C Mayrick, Lancing: classics and modern languages: T D F Norris, Radley: philosophy, politics, economics: H A Studholme, Eton: mathematics: I J Tres. Reigate GS: music: S J Weale, Eastbourne.

LADY MARGARET HALL: Chemistry – scholarship: Lorna J Smith, Durham Johnston Comp S; English – scholarship: Claire LMMHo, Cheltenham Ladies' C, Lucasta PE Miller, Westminster S; exhibition: C Ferguson, Harefield County HS, Wilmslow; modern history – scholarship: I M Baxter, Dr Challoner's GS, Amersham; exhibition: Simone R Long, St Catherine's S, Bramley and Mander, [illegible]

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE: [illegible]

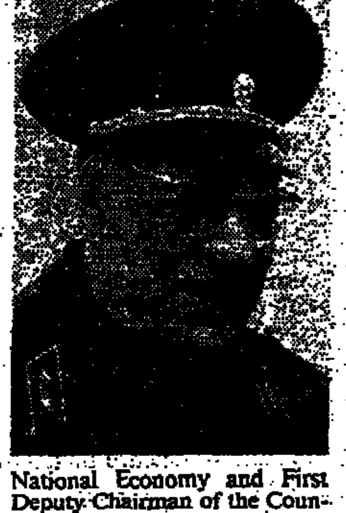
OBITUARY



MARSHAL DMITRY USTINOV

Important role in building up Soviet armed forces

Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister who has died at the age of 76, played an outstandingly important part in building up the country's *military might.* As Commissar of Armaments during the Second World War, Ustinov succeeded in impressing Stalin as well as Western observers, and as the organiser of the evacuation of the Soviet arms industry to the area beyond the Urals, thus preventing it from falling into the hands of the advancing German forces, he made a vital contribution to the winning of the war. Later his undoubted abilities and organisational talents were devoted to overcoming the military depredations of the war and to bringing Soviet armed strength up *to that of the United States.* In the last years of his long political career – which was almost exclusively concerned with the armaments industry and military affairs – Ustinov was Soviet Minister of Defence and one of the most influential members of the Politburo.



Dmitry Fedorovich Ustinov was born into a working-class *family in the town of* Samara (now Kuibyshev) on October 30, 1908. When still in his mid-teens, he spent a year as a volunteer in the Red Army and as early as 1927 he joined the Communist Party. In the same year he began work as a fitter in *the Balakhna Paper Combine in* the Gorky region of Russia and over the next two years he worked in several different industrial enterprises.

Having consolidated his working-class credentials, Usti*nov entered higher education in* 1929 and graduated first from the Bauman Higher Technical School in Moscow and in 1934 form the Leningrad Military Technical Institute. From 1934 until 1937 he worked as an engineer at the Naval Artillery Research Institute in Leningrad. In 1937 he moved to the Bolshevik Arms Factory, also situated in Leningrad, where he was successively design engineer, head of the Operations and Testing Bureau, deputy chief *designer and* (from *1938* to 1941) manager of the factory.

When Germany attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941 and thus brought the USSR into the Second World War, Ustinov was appointed People's Com*missar (as ministers were then* known) of Armaments at the remarkable early age of thirty-two. He continued in this post (with the title of minister from 1946) until 1953. The Soviet Union had been woefully underprepared for war and was desperately short of armaments when it broke out. Ustinov brought to the repairing of this damage professional competence, great energy and ability.

Ustinov's Communist Party as well as ministerial career blossomed in the post-war, and especially post-Khrushchev, *era. At the last party congress to* be held in Stalin's lifetime – the Nineteenth Congress in 1952 – he became a full member of the Central Committee of the party. In 1953 he was appointed Minister of the Defence Industry, a post he held until 1957 when he was made a deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, while retaining overall responsibility for the Soviet armaments industry, a responsibility he continued to hold when between 1963 and *1965 he* was both Chairman of the USSR Supreme Council of National Economy and First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Ustinov was evidently still more highly valued by Brezh*nev and Kosygin than he had* been by Khrushchev, for in 1965 he became a candidate (non-voting) member of the *Politburo and in the same year* a Secretary of the Central Committee. In his 11 years in the Secretariat, his special responsibilities were for the military, defence industry and the security organs. Thus, there was no question of his losing touch with his main speciality, while as party overlord of the KGB he had new and additional responsibilities which involved his working closely with Andropov, who was KGB chairman throughout most of that period.

When the post of Minister of Defence fell vacant in 1967, Ustinov was considered to be a *candidate, even though* the position was not normally held by a civilian. Kosygin, whose relations with Ustinov almost certainly went back to prewar Leningrad, is said to have backed Ustinov for the post, but Brezhnev preferred Marshal Grechko with whom he had served during the war. Though remaining a Secretary of the Central Committee, Ustinov was an influential figure within the Soviet leadership and at the Twenty-Fifth Congress in 1976 *he was promoted* to full membership of the Politburo. Within a few weeks of the Congress, Grechko died suddenly and on this occasion the party leadership decided that there were no insuperable obstacles to the appointment of a non-soldier to the post he had held and Ustinov became Minister of Defence. He was *simultaneously given the military* rank of General and in August of the same year, in a move designed to give a further boost to *his* authority, was created a Marshal of the Soviet Union.

Civilian though he essentially was, inasmuch as he had not been a career military officer, Ustinov was a civilian with a quite exceptional knowledge of military affairs, especially armaments. In view of his experience and responsibilities, he became a *key figure in the series of arms* limitation discussions between the United States and the Soviet Union initiated in the 1970s. Much of this work was behind the scenes, but he took an active part in the Vienna Summit Meeting of 1979 where one of the participants on the American side, Zbigniew Brzezinski, was struck by his "quick and *shrewd mind*" as well as by the warm relations which existed between him and both Brezhnev and Gromyko.

On Brezhnev's death in November 1982, Ustinov's importance in the Soviet political hierarchy was immediately made manifest. *He was one of* the first four bearers of Brezhnev's coffin and was the second speaker – after Andropov – at the funeral. According to some accounts, it was Ustinov who was the first to propose Andropov as Brezhnev's successor at the Politburo meeting which made the real decision, even though it was left to Brezhnev's protégé, Chernenko, to propose Andropov as General Secretary at the more *formal (and publicized) stage of* the succession process – his election by the Central Committee.

When Andropov died on February 9, 1984, Ustinov's voice must again have been an *important one in the Politburo* discussions, but to what extent or with how much or little enthusiasm, Ustinov supported Chernenko for the succession is not known. Under Chernenko's leadership, however, Ustinov continued to enjoy considerable prominence, as he had done under Andropov and during the last years of Brezhnev's life. As Minister of Defence, he continued to make relatively hard-line speeches about the dangers from the West, but under all *three General Secretaries whom* he served in this capacity, he gave no encouragement to those senior Soviet officers who, in *their speeches*, seemed to be ruling out the possibility of progress on arms limitation. Though professional military views obviously weighed heavily with Ustinov, he was never a mere spokesman for the military interests but a politician who put first the interests of the Communist Party and the Soviet Union as he saw them.

*Last September, when Usti*nov was still physically fit to carry out his duties, party control over the military was strikingly demonstrated. The capable but somewhat assertive Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov was replaced as Soviet Chief of General Staff and First Deputy Minister of Defence on September 6 by Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev. It is inconceivable that this change could have been made without Ustinov's consent and more than likely *that it was made on Ustinov's* initiative. That Ustinov was still in reasonably good health and in charge of the Soviet Union's defence effort at that time was illustrated when he attended the "Shield '84" Warsaw Pact exercises in Czechoslovakia from September 10 to 15.

Later that month – on *September 27 – Ustinov* presented the Order of Lenin and a third Hammer & Sickle Gold Medal to Konstantin Chernenko at a Kremlin reception held a few days after the latter's 73rd birthday. This, however, was to be Ustinov's last public appearance. Though the usual Order of the Day for the anniversary of the Bolshe*vik Revolution on November 7* was signed by Ustinov, his failure to appear to take the salute on the Lenin Mausoleum that day confirmed the suspicions which had been growing during his lengthy absence from public view that he was already gravely ill. His death, accordingly, came as no great surprise, though it left an important gap *in the Soviet political leader*ship. No other civilian could boast of anything comparable to Ustinov's experience, knowledge and authority *in the* military sphere.

SIR JOHN BENN

Sir John Benn, Bt, who died on December 19 at the age of 80, was a member of a family long connected with the City, with insurance, publishing and politics. He himself was active in the family publishing business, which included Benn Brothers Ltd and Ernest Benn Ltd, and from 1949 to 1968 was chairman and managing director of the United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution.

He was also active in Anglo-American contacts, in which he had taken an interest since spending a year at Princeton in the 1920s. He served as chairman of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth from 1969 to 1972.

John Andrews Benn was born on January 28, 1904, and educated at *Harrow, Princeton* and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He spent some time in the family publishing enterprises, where he had responsibility for the library of adult education books. He then travelled to Latin America, and founded *Industria Británica*, designed to promote British exports.

He served in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Regiment during the Second World War. *In 1945 he stood* unsuccessfully as Conservative candidate for North Bradford and, though he then gave up thoughts of a political career, he continued to take an active interest in the constituency.

The family's publishing interests had lapsed during the war, and Benn played a part in reviving them. He succeeded, for instance, in arranging the publication of *Painting as a Pastime*, by Winston Churchill, *illustrated* by Churchill's own paintings. But in 1949 he succeeded his father at the head of the UK Provident Institution, and turned his main attention to the City.

He was chairman of Crosby Trust Management Ltd from 1958 to 1961, and of Cincinnati Milacron Ltd from 1969 to 1976. He also served as chairman of Technical Development Capital Ltd, which he had founded in 1962.

Benn had a large circle of *friends, who appreciated* the warmth of his personality and his sense of duty; and a range of charitable activities. In the 1930s he *had* been active in trying to persuade industry to set itself up in Crook, in Durham; and he was chairman *for many years of the John* Benn Boys's Hostels Association.

He wrote several books based on his own experiences, including *I Say Rejoice* (1942), a memoir of his brother Christopher, killed in Africa during the war, and *A Merchant Adventurer in South America* (1931). *Something in the City* (1959) was an attempt to explain and popularize City activities.

He married in 1929 the Hon *Ursula Helen Alers Hankey*, and they had two sons and three daughters.

Mr James Kegie, OBE, who died on December 14 at the age of 71, was County Planning Officer for Monmouthshire from 1945 to 1974, and served as president of the executive council of the County Planning Officers' Society in 1968-69. He was chairman of the Welsh committee of the Countryside Commission in 1981-82, and consultant to the National Trust on structure plans in Wales *from 1974*.

Lady Russell, wife of Sir Archibald Russell, CBE, FRS, died on December 10 at the age of 80. She was the former Lorna Mansfield, and married in 1929. She is survived by her husband, a son and a daughter.

LORD SPENS

Cerise Dewar writes:

I was surprised that Press reports concerning the late Lord Spens said so little in redemption of his good name.

He tried very hard to make amends for his earlier gambling addiction and subsequent prison sentence. He certainly succeeded.

On his release in 1976 he courageously took up his seat in the House of Lords and became an active and worthwhile Cross-Bencher. I was a personal friend and knew him well; he was a kind, generous and caring man – *although in the* latter part of his life he was suffering from a severe heart condition which could have killed him at any time – he always remained cheerful and helpful.

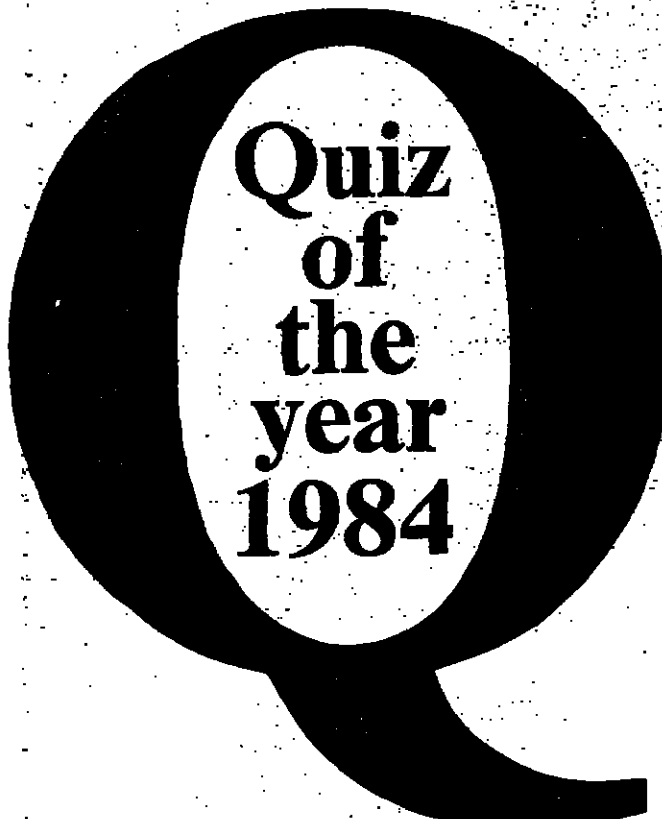
Not only in the Lords, but in the Royal Commonwealth Society he helped a great number of people and made many friends.

He died, in fact, a very worthy and much-loved man. It would be tragic if his many fine qualities should go unremembered by posterity.

Mr Barclay Leecham, CMG, OBE, who died on December 13 at the age of 83, was a former member of the Colonial Service who served in Tanganyika and later became chairman of that country's Transport Licensing Authority 1956-59 and executive director of the Tanganyika Sisal Growers' Association 1959-66.

Mr René Klopfenstein, the Swiss conductor and former director of the Montreux International Music Festival, died on December 12 on a flight from the United States to Switzerland. He was 57.

Colonel Robert Humbert, OBE, who died on December 17 at the age of 70, was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire in 1959.



Quiz of the year 1984

Robin Young sets a prize holiday exam for know-alls. Name the people usually paired with those shown on the right, and answer the questions below

GOOD NEWS FOR SOME

(1) Who awarded himself nearly full marks for pram emptying?
(2) What celebrated the bicentenary of an event that took place in a gutter on Paris's left bank?
(3) To whom were Shakespeare's sonnets dedicated "for his professional appreciation of William Shakespeare"?
(4) What of MacGillivray's came out of extinction with a crash?
(5) Who arranged a good hand for Flockton Grey?
(6) Where did dongolas make a come back?
(7) Who pottered out of an undisclosed kidnapping and turned up in a London auction room?
(8) By court decision, how many hens should a cockerel keep happy?
(9) Which Egyptian hairpiece is going back on loan?
(10) Where did Charles Spedding finish in front?

BAD NEWS FOR OTHERS

(1) Which rock sank in Portsmouth?
(2) Who shot two and was not reported to the police?
(3) What proved an expensive place to send your mother-in-law, all expenses paid?
(4) What triumph ended sadly in acclaim?
(5) Which country is ruled by a shadow?
(6) Who caught fire during a Pepsi Cola commercial?
(7) What did Coca Cola and Cheez Doodles precede?
(8) Where were more people in favour of a nuclear holocaust than wanted to keep freight off the roads?
(9) What does the Speaker of the House of Commons have in common with Adolf Hitler and Larry Hagman?
(10) Whose loss "was like the final curtain on a play *what I wrote*"?
(11) Who admitted frightening his sister's girlfriends with frogs and being so ugly that his mother covered his face with a blanket and told the neighbours not to disturb him?

NO NEWS AT ALL

(1) Which newspaper printed an interview with Arthur Scargill which he had not given?
(2) Who came down to earth with a bump 22 years to the day after going into orbit?
(3) Who was buried 439 years to the day after drowning?
(4) What had put on four more pages after 40 years and was sold for 75p?
(5) Who cut Bolero down to size (obviously not Bo Derek?
(6) What had followed the long and the short and the mad?

MONEY MATTERS

(1) Who had £560 million to burn?
(2) What "obvious political spectacle" made £115 million?
(3) Where did Joseph Allen and Dale Gardner pick up £142 million?
(4) Who had to trace family trees for £205 million?
(5) Who could not get his hands on £8 million?
(6) How did David Parsons get £1 million?
(7) Who was "extremely interested" in £2,305 a year with the possibility of another £40 for an oration?
(8) Whose home was saved by the budget?
(9) Whose budget was short by £90?
(10) Where was the finance minister fined for keeping a dog?

KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

(1) Who proved Canute wrong?
(2) Who invaded the everyday story of country folk?
(3) Who photographed a calendar of Ilford?
(4) Who read his Old Man of Lochnagar?
(5) Who played Phoni Sid?
(6) Who weighed in at 3.1188 kilograms?

SOME OLD FAVOURITES

(1) Who are Stockton's best men?
(2) What price a Vulcan bomber?
(3) How much to put your name on the Great Wall of China?
(4) Whose favourite Bible verse contains the line: "God is in the midst of her and she shall not be moved"?
(5) And whose: "And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out . . ."?
(6) Who listed the Kremlin as a favourite *building*?
(7) What would have been "a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much-loved friend"?

HEADLINE GRABBERS

How did the following make news in 1984?
(1) Bruce McCandless
(2) Rakesh Sharma
(3) Kathryn Sullivan
(4) Svetlana Savitskaya
(5) Chris Butcher
(6) Malcolm Cooper
(7) Medlock Bibby
(8) James Huberty
(9) Arkadi Gouk
(10) Michael Hancock
(11) Brian Cobby

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Who said?
(1) "The characteristic of the Good Samaritan is that he had a wallet with the cash in it to pay the bill."
(2) "Get off my bloody feet, Fred."
(3) "In an operation of this kind one would not go for a Proust or a Joyce – not that I would know about that, never having read either."
(4) "I think I would look very closely at how many people would have been hurt, and I might have said: 'Is it worth it?' "
(5) "I think if they hadn't been paying me for it I would still have gone on and done it, you know."
(6) "I want to put the pride back into Britain."
(7) "I would not want anybody looking at me to think this man is a thick, stupid, illiterate yob."
(8) "We begin bombing in five minutes."
(9) "To have him in bed with me was such middle-aged joy."
(10) "I am not one of your local characters. I don't vote here – I vote in Florida."
(11) "It is not enough to rearrange the deckchairs and to ask the band to play more loudly. It is time to notice that people are looking for the lifeboats."
(12) "Crisis? What crisis? There is no crisis?"
(13) "The editor of *The Sun* was an avid reader. He was always learning things from us."
(14) "It just occurred to me that this was the day I was not meant to see."
(15) "We are utterly, totally divided."

AROUND AND ABOUT

(1) How is Chris Greener outstanding?
(2) What in the British Isles is not considered worth more than 16 out of 20?
(3) Where did Mardale surface?
(4) And Melbury?
(5) Who was well-chuffed at the Pool?
(6) Which god lost his place on the pedestal?
(7) Where did the family of man have to be reunited?
(8) What did Jupiter collide with?
(9) What repelled Mars?
(10) How was Pluto picketed?

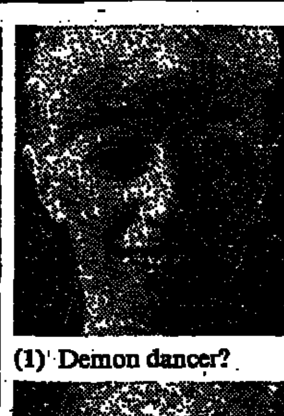
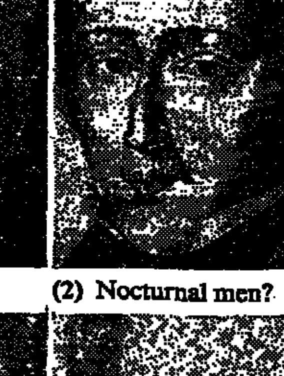
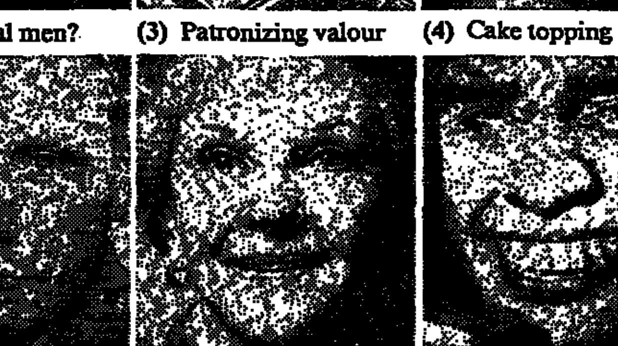
WHO DIED IN 1984?

(1) Who had us doing the hokey-cokey?
(2) Brought spiritual locomotion to the Home Guard?
(3) Went just like that?
(4) Came by day and night *to scourge from end to end?*
(5) Jumped at one o'clock?
(6) Had been praised as Jocasta in Oedipus?
(7) Gathered lilacs?
(8) Went ape out of water?
(9) Was feeling poorly . . . proper poorly?
(10) Suffered four hundred blows?
(11) "Died of addiction to jogging"?
(12) Painted his mother with a pint of Guinness?
(13) Fed Proust on ice cream and iced beer for a month?
(14) Was the kid?
(15) Was Oscar's first lady?
(16) Was called Madam?
(17) Heard it through the grapevine?

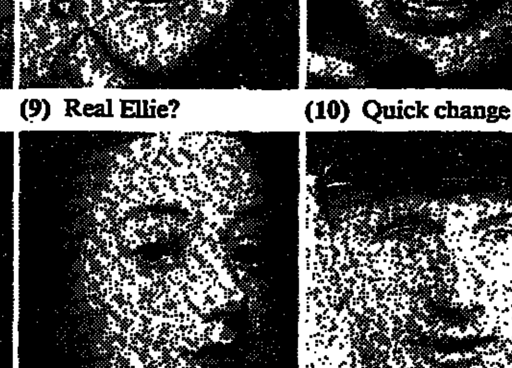
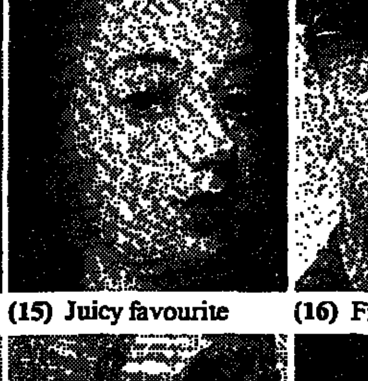
How to enter

● Closing date is Tuesday, January 8. Send your entries to Prize quiz, The Times, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT. The winners will be announced in the *Saturday* section on January 19.
● There will be prizes of £250, £150 and £75 respectively for the first three correct entries, or, failing that, for the three who score highest marks. Do not forget to include your name and full address.
● Employees of Times Newspapers Ltd and their families are ineligible. The Editor's decision is final.

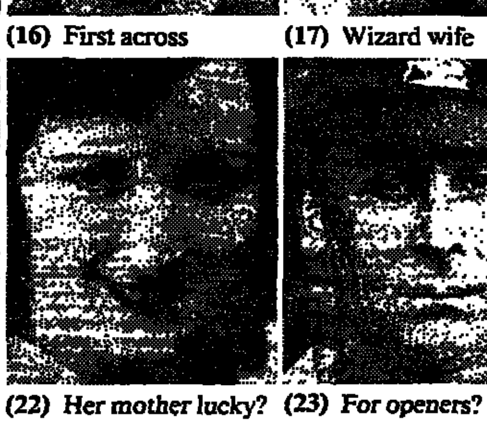
NAME THE OTHER HALF

(1) Demon dancer? (2) Nocturnal men? (3) Patronizing valour (4) Cake topping (5) They met together (6) Dear Liar

(7) Not Frederik (8) The lesser leap (9) Real Ellie? (10) Quick change (11) Dixon's sisters (12) Phantom roller


(13) Banker and peak? (14) Poles apart? (15) Juicy favourite (16) First across (17) Wizard wife (18) Top of the world

(19) Safe presumption (20) Love on wings (21) Trigger happy (22) Her mother lucky? (23) For openers? (24) Asta's keepers

Quick quiz: One just for fun. Answers on page 17

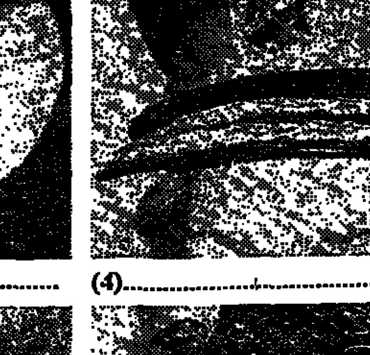
WHO IS WEARING A ROYAL HAT?



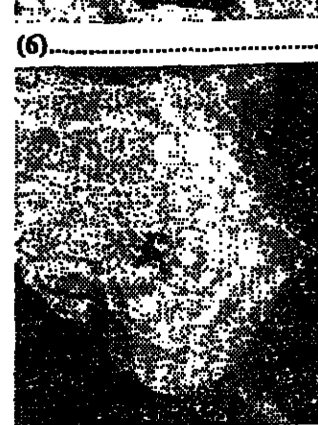
(1)..................... (2).....................



(3)..................... (4).....................



(5)..................... (6).....................

(7)..................... (8).....................



(9)..................... (10).....................

SPORT

1 How many gold medals did the United Kingdom win in the 1984 Olympics? (Score a point for each one correctly identified.)
2 Name the first three home in the 1984 Derby.
3 Who won the 1984 Open championship?
4 What was the score in the 1984 Milk Cup final?
5 Who is world snooker champion?
6 Who is world chess champion?
7 Who holds the world record at 1,500 metres?
8 Who scored most runs for England in the Test series against West Indies?
9 Who finished top of the Rugby League?
10 Who won the 1984 Formula One world championship?

FOREIGN FILE

1 Who became prime minister of
a) Canada?
b) New Zealand?
c) France?
d) Grenada?
2 What was the name of the Sikh leader whose militancy led to the storming of the Golden Temple at Amritsar?
3 Who was the Nigerian in the crate?
4 Who is president of
a) Argentina?
b) Finland?
c) El Salvador?
d) China?
5 Where is Desmond Tutu bishop of?
6 What was the name of the tanker which sank with a radioactive cargo?

POLITICS

1 How many European Parliament seats did Labour win?
2 Who is chairman of the SDP?
3 Who is president of Plaid Cymru?
4 Who is Labour's chief whip in the Commons?
5 Who is Tory chief whip in the Lords?
6 Who is the youngest member of the House of Commons?
7 Who is Father of the House?
8 Who is Paymaster-General?
9 Who finished top in Labour's shadow cabinet elections?
10 How many parliamentary by-elections were there in 1984?

SPACE

1 Which was 1984's longest space mission?
2 How many days did it last? (Score three).
3 How many space shuttle fights were there?
4 Can you name the first fare-paying passenger in space? (Score three).
5 What proved inconvenient about space flight?

CRIME

1 What was the name of the wedding day murderer?
2 What was the name of the newsagent whose toe was cut off?
3 Name the policewoman shot in St. James's Square?
4 And the policeman who died in shooting after two post office raids in Essex? (Score five).
5 Name the most wanted woman whose extradition was sought from Ireland?
6 Name the most wanted Australian criminal whose extradition was sought from Ireland?
7 Name the banned American whose appearance in Northern Ireland led to a death?
8 Whose death? (Score three).

ARTS

1 Who won the Booker Prize?
2 Who won the Betty Trask Memorial prize?
3 Who won the Prix Goncourt?
4 Who won the Nobel Prize for Literature? (Score two.)
5 Who won the Oscar as best actor?
6 What won the Emmy as best documentary?
7 Why couldn't Willard White be Sparafucile?

MISCELLANY

1 Who edits
a) *The Spectator?*
b) *The Field?*
c) *The Tatler?*
d) *The Times?*
2 What earth-shaking event occurred on July 19?
3 What came as a thunderbolt on July 9?
4 Who went summoned by bells?
5 Was it Marmaduke Gingerbits or Sonny?
6 What was too big for Berni?
7 What was unmentionable in front of royalty?

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

At £600 a day, the new St James's Club in Antigua may be the world's richest watering hole. **Richard Williams** drops in...

Mixing rum punches on jet set island

Three hundred years ago, its lack of water so little endeared Antigua to the marauding Spanish that they left it to Britain, whose soldiers, sailors and settlers fought drought and fierce Carib alike to turn the island into a province of King Sugar. Not much changes.

We arrived on the heels of the first significant rainfall in two years, a godsend which had given the interior's barren landscape the very palest brushing of fresh green. Cows and goats had been dying where they lay, tethered on the grassless common lands; even now, the survivors showed only the slightest suggestion of fat around their ribs. Future insurance against such a dry spell, whether by the building of expensive desalination plants or by a more extensive programme of ferrying the precious stuff by barge from more fortunate neighbours, remained the prevailing dinner-table topic.

None of this will bother the residents of the St James's Club, a new development scheduled to open this month at Mamora Bay, in the south-east of the island. Those happy folk paying nearly £600 per day per person for a roof garden suite or about £700 per day for a villa will have the benefit of a 50,000 gallon tank – or was it 500,000? – guaranteeing fresh water come whatever pestilence to the remainder of Antigua.

Created as a sister concern to his St James's Club in London by Peter de Savary, of Britain's most recent tilt at the America's Cup, the project boasts among its honorary committee such luminaries of the jet set as Viscountess Rothermere, and Michael Caine. They are the tip of a veritable Gatsby's guest list, for this 100-acre site is intended to be nothing less than the Caribbean headquarters of the international *haut monde*.

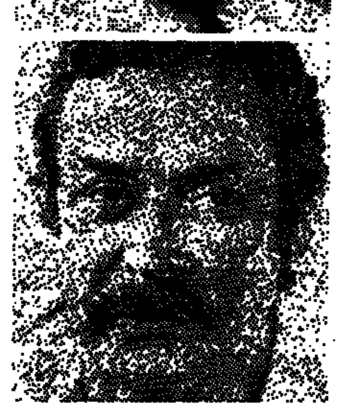
A 30-berth jetty with fresh water and television ready to be plugged in; a dozen quarter-horses from Texas stabled across the bay; Kawasaki jet-ski devices lined up by the lagoon; a gulping machine for eliminating seaweed in the bay; the masterpieces of Armani and Versace in the boutique; acolytes of Leonard in the hairdressing salon; beach waiters attending to guests with Yamaha electric golf carts; waitresses in St James's Club polo shirts custom made by Lacoste – the £10.5m spent on refurbishing the place will be, as they say in Hollywood, right there on the screen. According to Frank M Pfaller, the managing director, everything, from the sunset to the bath towels, will be "spectacular".

It will be a world to make pop record producers, arms dealers and minor royalty feel completely at home from the moment they step into what the managing director calls "the relaxed check-in situation"; a world to which the guide is written not by Patrick Leigh Fermor but by Jackie Collins.

If he felt it would provide a more spectacular sunset situation, no doubt Mr Pfaller would be making plans to dynamite the range of low hills to the west of the property. As things stood, he planned to upstage the elements at the opening party through the talents of the firework specialist who illuminated Mr de Savary's well publicized party for Prince Andrew at Newport Beach during the America's Cup.

At the special open-air party they kindly arranged for us, with a delightful local steel band in attendance, I discovered the St James's Club's most serious deficiency: its rum punch is a lot more Frank Bruno than Muhammad Ali, which is to say that it does not punch its weight. Hardly surprising, perhaps, considering that it comes in a coconut half-shell with a garland of hot-pink bougainvillea.





Club class: Peter de Savary (top) and Michael Caine

The rum punch at the Hawksbill Beach Hotel is weaker still. Somehow, though, it matters not at all. Swing through the hotel's modest gateway and you enter an environment conforming in almost every respect to the stereotype of a Caribbean paradise.

Guava, mango, frangipani, yucca, avocado, wattle and West Indian olive almost submerge the white two-storey main building and dispersed bungalows tucked into the curve of a fine-grained golden beach below a grassy promontory.

Looking down on the beach and across the sea to the vague bumps of Montserrat from the bar the solitary drinker can easily ignore the deficiencies of the rum punch as the crickets and tree-frogs pick up their dense antiphony and the evening sky silently explodes into striations of lemon, violet, indigo and crushed strawberry, the shades refracted into psychedelic brilliance through a residual haze from the procession around the grounds with a device belching paraffin-based smoke, lethal to mosquitos and sand-flies.

Hawksbill Beach is a terrific place. For all its modern facilities, which include a cellular-surfaced tennis court that is quite genuinely all-weather, a swimming pool and a beach around the corner on which one may discreetly indulge that yearning for a genuinely all-over tan, it feels modest and unassuming, a calm respite from Americanization one finds elsewhere. Something about it clearly reminds the visitor that Antigua was British, and the better for it.

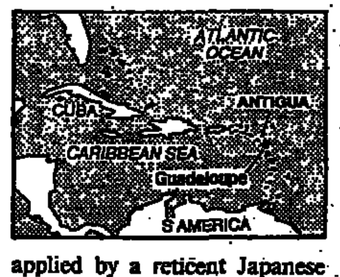
The large rooms, each with a balcony or verandah, renounce glazing in favour of adjustable wooden louvres and fine mosquito grilles. (I saw no sign of the dreaded insect). The louvres permit cool zephyrs to wash away staleness and dull care – although it can be a bit of a shock on your first evening when the paraffin-smoke machine passes by, with a noise like a low-flying light aeroplane, and the smoke rolls through the louvres.

At dawn the frogs and crickets are supplanted by a more contrasting dialogue between the gentle cuácoo-coo-coo of mourning doves, and the impatient screech of grackles, the small black birds which flock around the breakfast table, their angry eyes seeking out the dropped morsel or the unattended sugar bowl.



High-level view: Looking down at the yachts moored in the peaceful waters of English Harbour

Out by Hawksbill's reef, 100 yards or so from the shore, snorkellers and scuba-divers can examine the many species of tropical fish grazing around the coral – or so they say. I found marine life somewhat closer at hand when flapping around in the shallows; a trio of silver fish, about five inches long, with black button eyes and stripes that might have been



applied by a reticent Japanese calligrapher, came nibbling around my ankles and refused to leave.

"Cobblers", the bartender said when I asked him for their name. "If you have a small cut", he added, "they smell the blood". He warned that they could not be caught; and he was right, for they were too sharp for all the clumsy grabs encouraged by their cheek. Nudging and butting the ankles, they followed human flesh right to the shoreline and then waited for it to return, practically lying on the sand in the last few inches of water.

In some parts of the Caribbean, the local people are as persistently importunate as the silver fish when the smell of a foreign body reaches their nostrils. To its great credit and benefit, Antigua is not like that at all. Unusually handsome of feature and proud of carriage, to such a degree that one is constantly reminded of the island's famous contemporary cricketing sons, Vivian Richards and Anderson Roberts, Antiguans display not a hint of post-colonial animosity. This is not a prosperous island, but the schoolchildren in their crisp uniforms, the adolescent boys in their Nike T-shirts and tube socks and the grandmother on her way to church carrying prayer-book and tambourine would not have you know it.

The island itself is by no means generally prepossessing. There is little scenic grandeur such as that which rises to overwhelm the meaner aspects of Jamaica; the pot-holed roads and the Third World breeze-block mode of the island's architecture seem to echo rather than defy their context.

An exception, and the best place to hear colonial echoes, is Shirley Heights, one of Britain's two main Caribbean garrisons throughout the 18th century. Start at Fort Shirley, high on the hill overlooking English Harbour. Ruins of gun platforms, the powder magazine, the canteen and the officers' quarters can be seen, as can a dilapidated cemetery: tens of thousands died from "Black Vomit" (yellow fever), or from the bleeding, purgation and doses of tartar emetic with which it was treated.

At the point called Lookout, from which in 1803 sentries warned HMS Emerald in time to repel no fewer than 13 French schooners carrying 700 soldiers heading from Guadeloupe with intent to take the harbour, the two-storey ordnance building has been restored and converted by Russell Hodge into a delightful restaurant, its menu featuring a refreshing light lobster soup, fish with a hot sauce that might have provided the answer to yellow fever, and, not least, what Hodge calls "escargots de mer" – whelks in garlic butter.

From lunch at Lookout Point, wind down the hill to Nelson's Dockyard, now enjoying the status of a national park, where much good work is being done to restore original buildings and to turn a delightful location into a self-supporting craft centre; among its first successes is a bakery turning out, alongside its conventional loaves, facsimiles of the hard-tack biscuits essential to the survival of the British Navy two centuries ago. The purchaser has the option of keeping it as a souvenir in its presentation packaging, or of moistening it until edible and, gazing over the harbour, imagining in its taste the life of a jolly Jack Tar.



I stayed in Antigua as a guest of Kuoni Travel, flying British Airways 747 direct from London. Kuoni now own Hawksbill Beach Hotel, where the cost of a nine-day (seven-nights) European plan holiday varies from £567 to £683, according to season (extra week £189-£329).
Antigua is also one of Kuoni's special Concorde destinations. Details from Kuoni House, Dorking, Surrey or 33 Maddox Street, London W1. (01-499 8636).

How to put your skis on wheels

TRAVEL NEWS

A special economy car-rental for skiers is being offered by Europcar in leading winter-sports areas this winter. "Auto Ski" cars equipped with ski racks and snow tyres or chains are available for hire on an unlimited-mileage basis at a typical cost of £53 for three days and £106 for seven days for a Fiat Panda hired at Geneva Airport. In Austria nine-seat mini-buses can be hired at £120 for three days. Ring Godfrey Davis Europcar (950 5050).

Portugal for peanuts

Portugal offers the best value for holiday spending money among winter-sunshine resorts this year, according to the latest index on the cost of living compiled by Thomas Cook. The index excludes the cost of hotel accommodation and travel to the destination, but is based on typical prices at the resort, including restaurant meals, light refreshments, camera film, postcards, car-hire and petrol.

Portugal's living costs are less than half (47.5 per cent) that of the average British resort, while Majorca is close behind at 52.9 per cent. Tenerife is rated third at 56.5 per cent of UK prices, while mainland Spain is fourth at 57.8 per cent. Even Florida has lower living costs on holiday than the UK (85.3 per cent) despite the strong dollar, but Barbados is significantly more expensive at 141.8 per cent.

Best buys abroad highlighted by Thomas Cook include dinner for two with wine in Portugal for only £6.92, beer in Malta and Portugal at 39p per half-litre, and camera film in Las Palmas for £1.97.

Low flying

Discounts for frequent flyers – an established feature of the airline scene in the United States – are spreading to Britain. Passengers flying first class or executive class on Air-India's Heathrow-New York service between now and August 31, 1985, will receive vouchers which will entitle them to a free trip once they have flown on five flights at the full fare.

Hovering around

Hoverspeed, the cross-Channel hovercraft operator, is launching a separate motoring holiday guide for the first time. The guide runs from March to October 1985 and lists a range of holidays from go-as-you-please touring to stayput hotel accommodation in resorts. Hoverspeed is also introducing *gite* self-catering holidays in simply-furnished converted cottages in the Loire Valley region and in the Burgundy area around Macon. Mobile-home holidays at Parc Oasis on the Gulf of St Tropez are also available for the first time. Hoverspeed says it will operate up to 25 crossings a day from Dover to Calais and Boulogne next summer.

Counting on Concorde

Kuoni Travel, the long-haul holiday specialist, has brought out a new programme based entirely on flights by Concorde to seven destinations: Morocco, St Lucia, Barbados, the Bahamas, Antigua, New York and Egypt. Concorde flights can normally be used in only one direction, but in the case of Barbados and the Bahamas, holidaymakers can take a supersonic flight on both the outward and return journeys.

Visiting cards

German Federal Railways (DB) is pegging the price of its 1985 go-as-you-please railcards at 1984 levels. A card which allows passengers to travel anywhere on the 17,500-mile German rail network will cost £44 for four days, £67 for nine days and £89 for 16 days.

DB is also introducing a junior railcard for young people in the 12-26 age bracket, priced at £41 for nine days and £55 for 16 days. Cards must be bought in advance from British Rail travel centres or DER Travel Service, 15 Orchard Street, London W1 (01-486 4593).

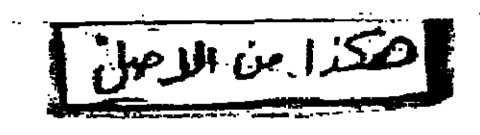
On the wild side

Wildlife weeks on the Norfolk Broads are being operated next year by Blakes, the boat-hire operator, in conjunction with the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust. The holidays will be organized in May and September to coincide with the spring and autumn bird migration and, at a supplement of £25 per person, a specialist lecturer will take holidaymakers on visits to nature reserves and will give talks on traditional Broadland activities like reed harvesting, thatching and eel-catching. Information: Blakes Holidays, Wroxham, Norwich NR12 8BH (06053 2911).

Back at the ranch

A brochure devoted exclusively to ranch holidays in the United States has just been published. The programme covers holidays at 26 ranches in nine states and lists a variety of properties from working cattle ranches to luxury resorts. Among the activities in which Western enthusiasts can indulge are cowboy-style horse-riding, cook-outs, hay-wagon rides and square dancing. Prices start at £666 for a seven-day holiday, including the return flight. Information from American Round-Up (499 3922).

Philip Ray



VALUES

Stand by for the counter revolution

Sir Terence Conran – the man who made Habitat a habit – feels the pulse of the High Street and suggests a remedy: better design, better quality, better sales

Design, the buzzword of 1983, has been the action word of 1984. Last year Mrs Thatcher exhorted retailers, manufacturers, public authorities, and the City to look to good design as the solution to many of the commercial, industrial and social ills of this country. And it wasn't just lip service. The Government put up £20m spread over five years to get things started – and this has encouraged those who are in a position to do so to invest heavily in this newly recognized resource.

As a result a metamorphosis is taking place. Designers are rapidly losing the image of arty aesthetes who would never darken a factory door, and are emerging as vital components of the business scene.

The design colleges are responding at last, producing graduates who have been trained to understand the needs and constraints of industry and commerce, who can design products which look as good and work as well as those produced anywhere else in the world, and who can interpret fashion and mood. Designers of this calibre deserve and need to reach the highest level of responsibility within their companies.

Retailers are at the forefront of those seeking to benefit from the additional value design can bring to their businesses. One of the reasons is that they have direct contact with the consumer and know at first hand just how demanding, fickle and sophisticated their customers have become.

The public, educated by travel, the media, and a growing band of retailers who recognize that well designed, good looking products will sell better, have a new-found taste for excellence, and will now settle for nothing less.

Retailing is one of the most competitive industries in Britain today, and this has resulted in a very active, innovative and exciting scene as businesses vie with each other to gain the edge. Design is a means of providing this edge – particularly in the hands of the larger retailers.

Products designed and manufactured exclusively for the retailer cannot be sold at a cheaper price anywhere else, own brands can be developed, special store design can exactly fit the needs of the customer and the style of the products, the corporate image can be strengthened and sharpened through distinctive graphics and packaging. All this adds up to a shop with its own particular personality which will endear itself to its *own* customers.

Design is now a multi-layered discipline which should be built into all the marketing and promotional strategies of a business right from their inception. The retailer who brings in a designer to do a quick facelift job on a tired product or concept is wasting his money.

There are other factors too which have spurred the retail sector into handing out some of the largest design contracts this year. The recognition of shopping as a leisure time activity rivalling holidays abroad, sport, television and eating out, in popularity has caused an enormous upheaval in the retail trade. The public have made it plain that they look to retailers to make shopping pleasurable.

Retailers are now strenuously considering how they are going to meet this expectation, and many new measures are in the pipeline which will revolutionize shopping habits in this country – liberalized shop hours and Sunday trading are among those in the headlines lately.

Following on from this, the design of store interiors, shopping precincts and malls, both new and old, is receiving a great deal of attention from retailers and property owners who already know that a pleasing ambience can have a remarkably beneficial effect on sales.

A recent example of this in our own group, has been the performance of those Richard Shops stores that have been completely revamped. Sales in these stores have far exceeded those where there has been no new design input, even though they are all selling the same merchandise.

The out-of-town superstore complex is another phenomenon which is likely to become more popular with the liberalization of shopping hours. Served by excellent communications these sites will offer a chance for designers to create an environment where it will be a pleasure to shop and work.

The development of such complexes is obviously a major undertaking and large multiple retailers are finding it beneficial to work together to attract customers from considerable distances for a pleasant day out. British Home Stores and Sainsbury's have already formed such a partnership, and Marks & Spencer and Tesco have recently announced their intention of working together.

All this can be bad news for the small retailer who does not have the resources or volumes to achieve exclusivity or a price advantage over the large multiples. His future must lie in the quality end of the market, supplying a very high level of service to the customer, or in specialized areas of merchandise, or both. In these shops the quality and devotion to design will really have to reign supreme, and the liveliest new ideas must constantly be put before the public to provide an irresistible temptation.

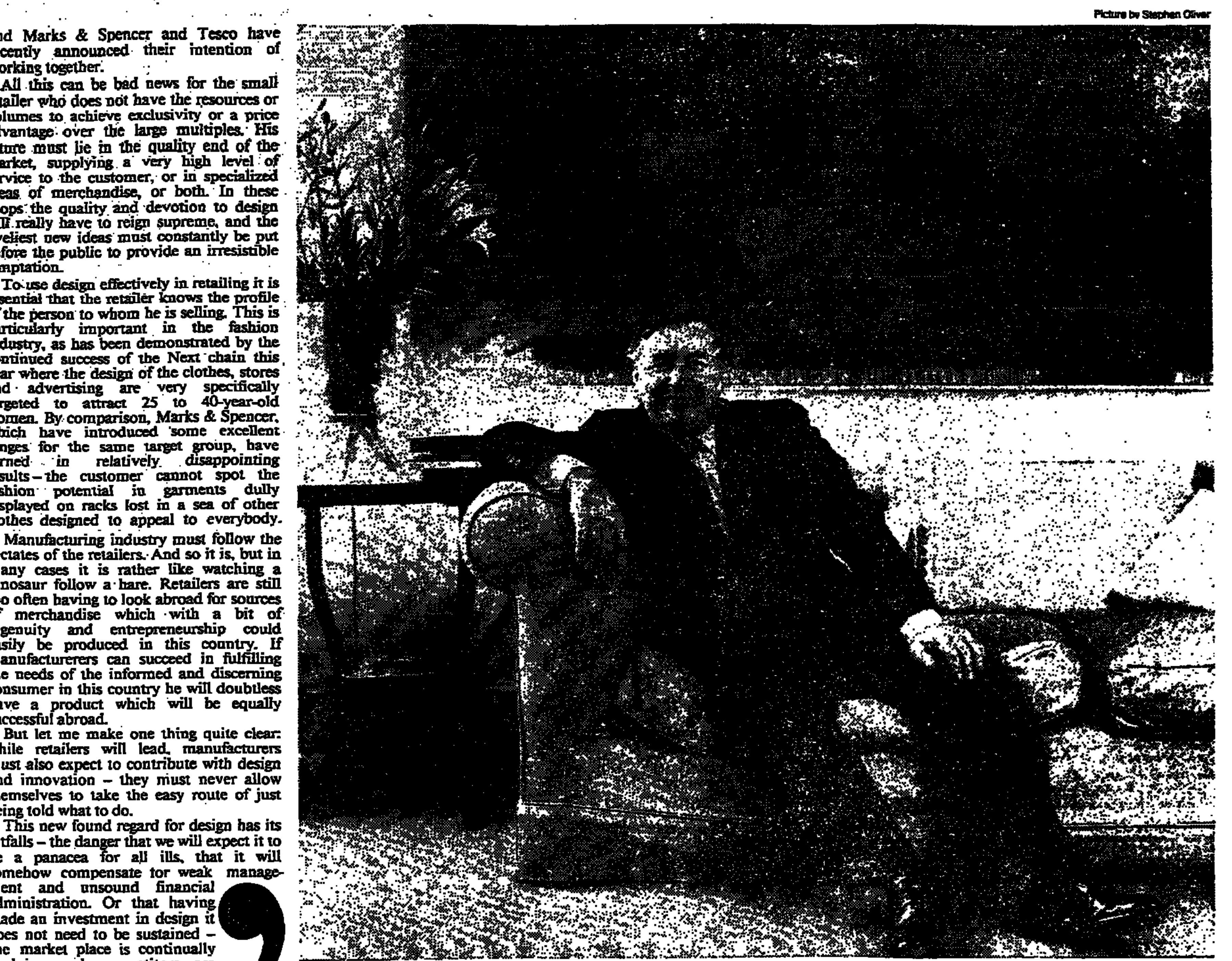
To use design effectively in retailing it is essential that the retailer knows the profile of the person to whom he is selling. This is particularly important in the fashion industry, as has been demonstrated by the continued success of the Next chain this year where the design of the clothes, stores and advertising are very specifically targeted to attract 25 to 40-year-old women. By comparison, Marks & Spencer, which have introduced some excellent ranges for the same target group, have turned in relatively disappointing results – the customer cannot spot the fashion potential in garments dully displayed on racks lost in a sea of other clothes designed to appeal to everybody.

Manufacturing industry must follow the dictates of the retailers. And so it is, but in many cases it is rather like watching a dinosaur follow a hare. Retailers are still too often having to look abroad for sources of merchandise which with a bit of ingenuity and entrepreneurship could easily be produced in this country. If manufacturerers can succeed in fulfilling the needs of the informed and discerning consumer in this country he will doubtless have a product which will be equally successful abroad.

But let me make one thing quite clear: while retailers will lead, manufacturers must also expect to contribute with design and innovation – they must never allow themselves to take the easy route of just being told what to do.

This new found regard for design has its pitfalls – the danger that we will expect it to be a panacea for all ills, that it will somehow compensate for weak management and unsound financial administration. Or that having made an investment in design it does not need to be sustained – the market place is continually evolving and competitors are always snapping at each other's heels.

Picture by Stephen Oliver



Natural habitat: Sir Terence Conran in the living room of his home at Eaton Place in London

EATING OUT

Rendezvous with a midnight feast

With Christmas almost upon us, New Year's Eve now beckons to those with the stamina for further festivities. Here we list a variety of possibilities for the last bash of the year

New Year's Eve is supposedly the time for resolutions about changing or improving one's life. Anyone who is about to resolve to save money and to eat less would therefore be well-advised to head for the Grosvenor House's luxury restaurant **Ninety Park Lane**. As a last indulgence before an era of austerity, the restaurant's New Year's Eve dinner would seem hard to beat.

A nine-course meal is offered, with dancing – if anyone can manage it – for £110 a head. Overnight accommodation for those not "Staying low" is available at £60 per double room. The menu for this extravaganza includes fresh truffle salad, scrambled eggs with oysters, seafood scallops in herb sauce, saddle of venison with blueberries and cinnamon pears and capon breast in truffle juice – this is before the cheeses and desserts. The evening begins with a champagne reception.

On a slightly more modest scale, the hotel's bright and modern all-day café-restaurant **The Pavilion** is offering a New Year's Eve dinner with a Caribbean flavour, complete with steel band, for £45. The menu includes half a bottle of wine, rum punches and three buffet-style courses of suckling pig, chicken okra casserole and prawns in ginger and coconut sauce. For those who limbo on to the next morning, a New Year's Day brunch is offered from 10am at £18 per very sore head.

Back in the luxury-class, the London Hilton's **Roof Restaurant** offers a spectacular £115 Gala Evening to match its spectacular view over celebrating London. A seven-course dinner-dance includes fillet of sea-bass marinated in Chablis, lobster and oysters with caviare, fillet of veal en croûte and petits fours. *If you hear music and laughter coming up from below,* it will almost certainly be The Variety Club Ball, complete with cabaret, taking place in the ballroom.

Another "money-no-object" evening can be enjoyed at the elegant **Maxim's de Paris** restaurant just off Leicester Square. £100 will buy you a champagne reception, a seven course dinner and dancing till 3am to an 11-piece orchestra, with the added French touch of a cancan cabaret. The evening is black tie as well as black stocking.

Stockings and suspenders will also be a prime feature of the evenings at the two **School Dinners** restaurants which will no doubt look back on 1984 as the year they received royal patronage in the shape of Prince Andrew. With the gymslip waitresses providing the distraction and unlimited drinks "free" all night, I don't suppose one should expect too much from the dinner – avocado with prawns, melon cocktail, entrecôte steak, breast of chicken with yoghurt dip and apple pie with cream shouldn't really account for the £50 a head charge. Given the circumstances, perhaps that should read £25 a leg?

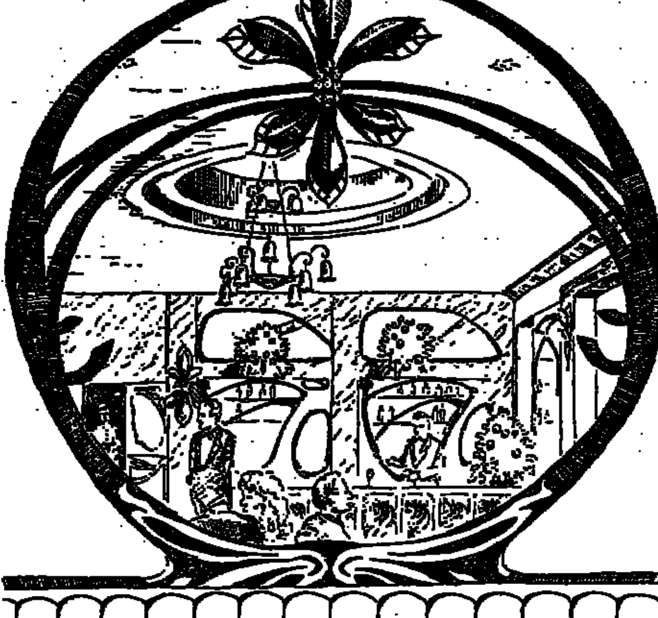
For a slightly more edifying spectacle, and at a reasonable price too, the eye-catching and spacious restaurant at **One Hampstead Lane** is worth consideration. For £29.95, they are offering a five-course dinner with coffee and champagne, complemented by live jazz and dancing. The well-balanced menu embraces game consommé, poached monkfish with a champagne and lobster sauce, mignons of lamb, beef and veal in a truffle and madeira sauce and a meringue with caramel.

I would imagine that Italian restaurants create a lively atmosphere on New Year's Eve when most of them can make an average Monday exciting. A recent arrival on the scene **Quadrifoglio**, tucked away in its own stylish courtyard off Charing Cross Road, probably deserves attention, not least because of its parentage – the well-thought of Il Passetto in Shaftesbury Avenue.

Quadrifoglio is extremely smart-looking, with art deco touches, a small stage for its resident trio and a dance area. On December 31, they will be offering a five-course meal for £29.50, exclusive of a 15 per cent service charge. The menu, unusually for a New Year's Eve special, offers choices at most of the stages, ranging from crab cocktail or melon with port, to scampi in white wine, garlic and brandy sauce or fillet steak with pâté and madeira sauce.

Finally, a mention for another stylish venue, the recently opened **Princess Garden** in North Audley Street. This sumptuously decorated Peking style restaurant has a number of large, circular tables capable of accommodating parties of up to 12. The menu, created by three imported chefs from Hong Kong, offers a wide range of excellent dishes, with their own hand-made noodles, the crispy aromatic duck, and the stuffed pork dumplings being particularly good. At the time of writing the restaurant did not yet know whether it would be offering a special dinner or entertainment on December 31 – but then it's not their New Year, is it?

Stan Hey



Maxim's de Paris: Drawing by Francis Mosley

Ninety Park Lane and The Pavilion, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London W1 (499 6363).
Roof Restaurant, London Hilton, Park Lane, London W1 (493 8000, ext 4018).
Maxim's de Paris, 32 Panton Street, London SW1 (839 3051).
School Dinners, 34 Baker Street, London W1 (486 2724) and at Barnard's Inn, Holborn, London EC1 (242 9572).
One Hampstead Lane, 1 Hampstead Lane, London N6 (340 4444).
Quadrifoglio, 127 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (437 8595).
Princess Garden, 8-10 Northern Audley Street, London W1 (493 3223).

DRINK

Singled out as ports of distinction

Port nomenclature is confusing, with "crusted this" and "late-bottled that" sold alongside those more familiar bottles of ruby, tawny and vintage port. Thankfully, all one needs to know is that apart from vintage ports, the only wines likely to show any vintage character are the ports from a single *quinta* (estate). So don't expect that Christmas cut-price bottle of "Vintage Character" port to remind you of Graham '63 or Taylor '55 because it won't.

Vintage ports are a blend of the wines of several quintas. But some single quinta ports may well remind you of the real thing.

Taylor's distinctive Quinta de Vargellas, for instance, has a particularly powerful bouquet reminiscent of violets and I pick up the same violet character in their vintage ports, which contain a proportion of Vargellas wines in their blend.

Graham's Malvedos is another good example. I find their wines have a strong tea-rose scent and their vintage ports often have a touch of tea-rose on the bouquet.

In recent years the distinction between what does and what does not constitute a single quinta port has become blurred, and this will probably only get sorted out when Portugal enters the EEC.

In the meantime the rule appears to be that single quinta ports are only produced in good rather than great years and therefore mature faster and cost less than vintage ports. I have not yet come across a port house that has declared a vintage port and a single quinta port in the same year.

There are thousands of quintas scattered throughout the port wine region's steep terraced hillsides that follow the mighty Douro for 70 miles as it flows down from the Spanish border towards Oporto and the Atlantic coast. What always surprises me when comparing one quinta's wine with another are the extreme differences in style between them and therefore how complex the art of port blending must be.

Those hot low-lying quintas clustered round Pinhão, for instance, tend to make big, beefy almost burnt wines while the cooler quintas higher up the Douro often make wines with a stalky green flavour and there is every shade of flavour in between. The properties vary dramatically in style, from Croft's cool colonial verandahs at Roeda to Graham's Quinta dos Malvedos which was never much more than a grapefruit grove and a farm. The most imposing property of all is Ferreira's Quinta do Vesuvio.



High above the Douro at Pinhão is the pretty Quinta da Eira Velha, owned by the seafaring Newman family and now managed by Cockburn's. As a single quinta wine Eira Velha is softer than most and therefore usually ready for drinking after about eight to ten years, unlike most single quinta wines which need about thirteen years in the cellar before they show at their best, while the sturdiest single quinta wines need anywhere between 13 and 18 years maturation.

Eira Velha's soft, fragrant and fruity '82 with a touch of blackberries on the finish is a perfect example of this quinta's style and will cost £8.91 when it is shipped after Christmas. (John Harvey & Sons, 27 Pall Mall, London SW1 and 12 Denmark Street, Bristol.)

Not far away from Eira Velha is Croft's Quinta da Roeda: its low-lying vineyards are an impressive sight and probably account for its nickname of the "diamond of the Douro". Roeda's wines are supposed to be redolent of the sweet, sticky gum cistus flower that grows wild on the estate. I am not altogether convinced but both Croft's and Roeda's wines always seem to have a soft, flowery charm – so try the Roeda '80 (Justerini & Brooks, 61 St James's Street, London SW1, £11; Corney & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London EC1, £9.77).

Delaforce have only recently introduced Da Corte, a single quinta wine from the Rio Torto, a southerly tributary of the Douro, and this hot estate produces robust, spicy full-bodied wines typified by their '80 vintage. (Corney & Barrow, £9.20.) Not dissimilar in style is the '68 Fonseca Guimaraens whose big, beefy burnt Douro tang reminds me strongly of Fonseca's vintage ports. (Oddbins, £8.79; Russell & McIver, The Rectory, St Mary at Hill, London EC1, £10.35.)

The two most famous single quinta names – and deservedly so – are Graham's Malvedos and Taylor's Vargellas. Malvedos's superb '68 vintage, with its wonderful spicy tea-rose bouquet and taste, is, I think, one of the best Malvedos vintages ever and a real bargain priced at £8.95 from Sainsbury's or £10 from Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street, Colchester, Essex. Vargellas '72 is another wonderful wine from a quinta set in wild scrub-like terrain even higher up the Douro whose deep purple colour and seductive velvety-violet character will be perfection in a year or so's time. (Bottoms Up £7.60, Gough Bros £9.99.)

Jane MacQuitty

Single quinta ports spend only two years in cask before being bottled and will therefore throw a heavy sediment whilst maturing in bottle. So make sure you decant single quinta ports carefully before serving.

● Last minute Christmas wine buyers will be glad to know that on Christmas Eve La Vigneronne at 105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 will stay open until 11pm and Bibendum at 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 until 8pm.

Party preparations

FAMILY LIFE

Cool heads and warm hearts

Today several of my friends can be found preparing themselves for a siege that will start on Monday and end on January 2, or thereabouts. These are my "don't you hate Christmas" friends who wall themselves up in their own houses (leaving a recorded message on the answering machine to say they are away) and studiously refuse to answer the doorbell, sneaking out for a walk or to replenish stores at dawn or after dusk.

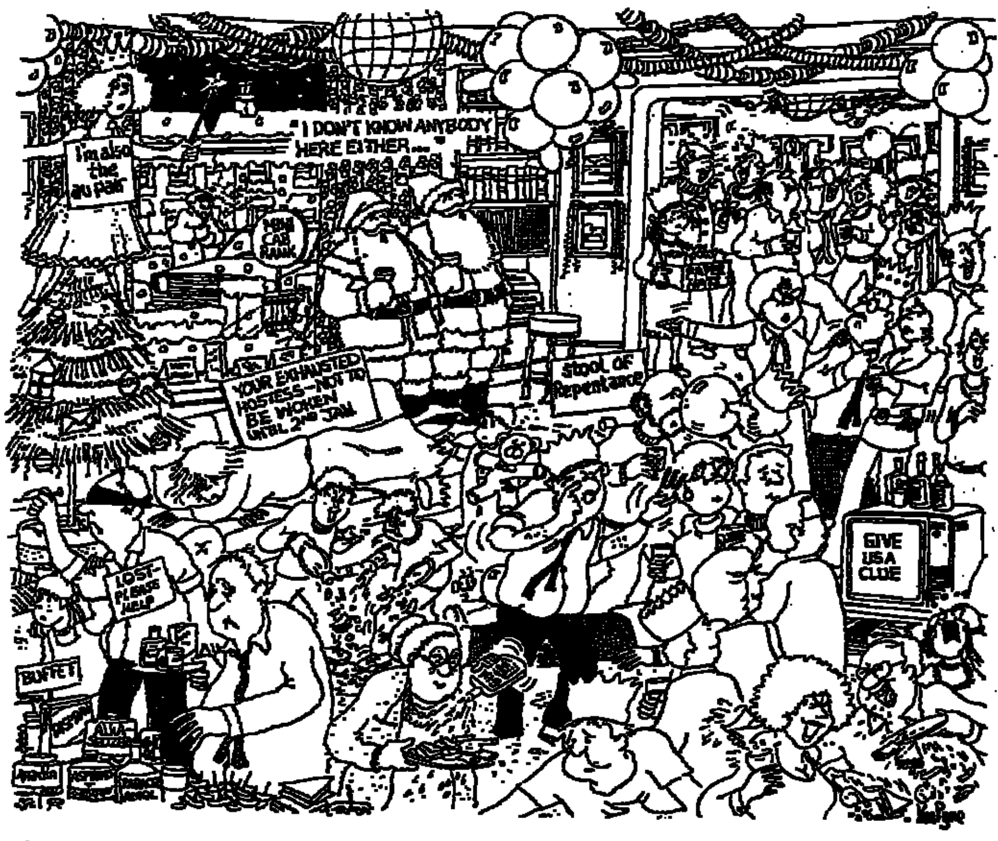
Over the years my disenchantment with the commercial Christmas has grown and I have been heard to swear "never again" as the turkey and I stagger to the table where 14 guests sit glowing with expectation. But deep down I remain as fond of the idea as I ever was.

Looking back over the Christmases I have known, the best parties have been largely spontaneous affairs for which we were nevertheless subconsciously prepared. (I am not including the smart parties to which one invites everyone to come and drink as much booze as possible in a short space of time, nor the kind where half are strangers, acquaintances or business associates to whom one feels a sense of obligation. Such parties take care of themselves and need no description.)

But what is it that makes a house party successful? Here are a few tips: they won't guarantee success but they might help to avoid disaster.

Don't plan a party at a time when you are likely to be exhausted or hung over. It is hard to play plausible host if every noise louder than a whisper makes you wince. Don't ask more people than you have chairs for (unless the majority are children, when the floor will suffice). Don't have the kind of food that will be ruined if guests are late – which, if entire families are involved, they invariably are.

Don't serve the kind of dishes that will at the involuntary flick of a wrist ruin your carpet, upholstery or clothes. It may be monotonous to repeat the advice of the best chefs – but for a family party, keep it simple should be a constant motto.



Now for some more positive advice on how to make the party go smoothly.

Before: Check that you really do have enough food and drink – including soft drinks – to offer everyone, remembering that greed is a factor at Christmas. One grandmother I know, famous for her smooth organization, suggests that you make (or buy) at least three times as many sausage rolls and mince pies as you think you will need and double the amount of fresh fruit on your shopping list: "You don't need fancy foods – just quantity and quality". Her husband volunteers: "And buy twice as much port and whisky as you have planned for. I don't know why, but these are the two drinks that seem to be the most popular at Christmas, no matter what people's normal preferences".

Buy plenty of soda – not for the whisky or brandy, but for spillages – and two bottles of Alka Seltzer and one of Paracetamol for parents who are suffering from the cumulative effects of office parties.

Set aside enough time to have a bath or fiddle with your hair or make-up before the first ring at the door bell: once the first guests have arrived, it will be too late. Wear comfortable clothes and not the ones with designer labels that will be ruined by the sticky little fingers clamouring at your knees. Try to organize one room in which there is a spare bed for anyone – adult or child – who finds that the party is too much for them and needs to creep away for a spell. Also for tiny children with set bed-times.

During: Have a number of games at your disposal. Don't leave this until the last minute and be sure that at least one adult knows *how* they are played. (Trying to remember the rules of "Give us a Clue" or "Botticelli" can cause havoc.) Try to have a few old favourites that everyone can play.

These include Charades and variations on the Memory Game (a tray with 20 items to be studied for 30 seconds then remembered and noted down).

"The Stool of Repentance" was always in our repertoire until the master of the house, whose turn it was, slipped a disc trying to get out of it and lay flat on his back throughout the entire Christmas holiday. However, it is worth repeating the rules: everyone sits in a circle and one sits in the middle. The Prosecutor asks the assembled company of what the "prisoner" – he or she in the middle – stands accused and each person whispers in his or her ear. The Prosecutor writes all accusations down and the prisoner has to guess the identity of the person who has made the accusation. If he guesses incorrectly, he pays a forfeit. This is a winner because everyone wants a legitimate reason to be nasty in the season of goodwill.

Other games include Murder, Shadow Buff, Blind Man's Buff, Sardines – and of course card games such as Sevens, Vingt-et-Un, and Happy Families.

One of the best Christmas parties I ever attended offered only food, drink, a television (could be video) room, a children's room and a gaming room in which guests could either play darts or roulette. The oldest guest was 75, the youngest two and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

This may have been because the guests all had options – to participate or not, to compete or not, to snooze or shout as the spirit took them. The host and hostess had also organized taxis to take those who were not staying the night to their respective homes – a luxurious but very welcome postscript to the occasion.

After: Pat yourself on the back because you have given one of the most rewarding Christmas presents: allowed those of whom you are genuinely fond to do nothing but enjoy themselves for a few hours. Make a note in your diary that next year it's their turn – knowing that such reciprocity may not be forthcoming and it is better to give than to receive.

If you feel at all inadequate about holding a party, don't. If it's back-up you need, there are a number of books in the shops to help you, among which *Parties for Children* (Unwin Paperbacks, £2.95) and *How to survive your children's party* (Adam and Charles Black, £4.95) are two of the best.

Judy Froshaug

Outings

CHRISTMAS PAST, CHRISTMAS PRESENT: A quiz, exhibition and (from Jan 2) a series of talks are the National Gallery's events for children this Christmas. Quiz sheets to find the first Father Christmas, the angels, the Christmas pudding and so on available free of charge from today until Jan 7. The exhibition, centred round Gossaert's "Adoration of the Kings" is in the special exhibition room.

National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (839 3321). From today Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm (closed Dec 24-Dec 26). Admission free.

THE TEN–DAY WONDER: Children's festival with playshops for those aged between six and ten who want to learn more about magic, (there is a crèche for very small children) with afternoon performances by David Wood with his Magic and Music Show. On Dec 30 and 31, Reg Bolton will hold circus workshops in the morning, and select half a dozen young participants to appear with him in his Suitcase Circus.

Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191). Thurs-Jan 5, play/workshops at 11am (free), afternoon performances at 2.30pm. Adult £1, child 50p, please book.

A WIZARD OF EARTHSEA: Adapted for the Unicorn Theatre for Children by Shaun Prendergast, Ursula le Guin's fantasy adventure tells the story of Sparrowhawk, a young goatherd who has powers as magical as Merlin, who fights dragons and danger before becoming the benevolent wizard he is destined to be. For 7-year-olds and over. The Unicorn also runs workshops and other activities for children during the holidays.

Unicorn Theatre for Children, Great Newport Street, London WC2 (836 3334). Today, tomorrow, Fri, Dec 29, 30 and early Jan, 2.30pm, tickets £2.40-£3.90, plus 10p for non-members.

CHRISTMAS AT THE NATIONAL: Michael Bogdanov's adaptation of Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner* is a spellbinding performance created especially for children aged between 6 and 12. For older members of the family there is *The Nativity*, a medieval mystery play (see page 10). In addition there are free foyer performances at the theatre – Paul Hansard's Puppets, today at 5.30pm and an excellent traditional Punch and Judy show on Thurs at 4 and 6pm. In the Lyttelton at 6pm on Fri, a rare opportunity for children to listen to Roald Dahl reading new and as yet unpublished stories. Also on Fri (and Dec 31) at 11.30am, Jactito Puppets will show 7 to 11-year-olds how to make their own and let them take part in performances. Children are asked to bring their own materials and scissors and to book, though the workshops are free.

National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (928 2252 or 633 0880). *Ancient Mariner* Thurs, Fri, Dec 29 at 11.30am, 2 and 7.15pm. Under-18s, all performances £3; adults £5 matinées, £4.50-£7.50 evenings.

COUNTRY DIARY

Nostalgia in the fields abiding . . .

Some years ago a record of carols and hymns was produced and called, I think, *Christmas in England*. It sold like hot cakes in the United States and Canada, not only among expatriate Brits but among thousands of North Americans who dream of spending the festive season in a tiny, picturesque English village, with snow on the ground, robins perched on holly trees and the choir singing in a medieval church.

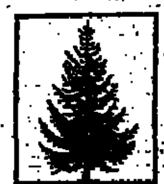
Quite why so many of us, *pace* Dickens, still associate Christmas with the countryside is unclear. For some, but surely only a few, it may be to do with childhood memories. For the rest it is perhaps the instinctive knowledge that the celebrations have their origins in our remote rural past.

Christmas, despite its great religious and historical significance, is mixed up with all sorts of decidedly non-Christian traditions. The midwinter feast and the exchange of gifts probably go back much further than the birth of the child in the manger.

Evergreens were evidently cherished because they thrived in the dead months, when everywhere else the leaves withered and the flowers vanished. Holly and mistletoe were brought in to decorate homes and to cheer people up.

The Christmas tree is a relative newcomer. In medieval mystery plays a brightly decorated spruce, pine or fir was used to represent the Garden of Eden. The Germans and the Scandinavians later used it to enliven the winter solstice and by implication to celebrate Christmas itself, a custom which delighted even the austere Martin Luther.

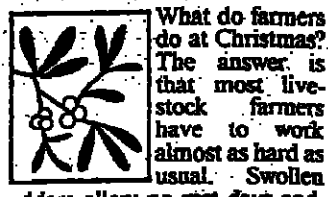
It was not until the last century that Prince Albert made the tree popular in Britain. He fostered an industry with an annual turnover today approaching £20m.



It is the time of year when the thoughts of news editors turn to Christmas trees and turkeys. Recently BBC's Breakfast Television had a rather alarming bit about the security precautions thought necessary on the Yattendon estate in Berkshire, the largest in Europe, to deter tree thieves. What with searchlights, guard dogs and chaps racing around in Land-Rovers, it all looked most unseasonable.

I find it hard to believe that stealing trees can be either practicable or profitable, but obviously some people think it is. What most concerns Major General Tony Richardson, a genial fellow who runs the British Christmas Tree Growers' Association from a house in Wimbledon, is that we should not be seduced into buying something from Belgium or Denmark, which has spent a week or more on the back of a lorry, when the home grown product is so much fresher. Or so he says.

His association has produced a label identifying a British tree, but I have yet to see it displayed in any of my local shops or, as the case may be, on the pavement outside. Today I will go down and hand over a tenner or so for whatever looks the best available, and so, I suspect, if you have not already done so, will most of you.



What do farmers do at Christmas? The answer is that most livestock farmers have to work almost as hard as usual. Swollen udders allow no rest days and, as well as having to milk their cows, dairy farmers will scarcely be in the most convivial mood while they still have the shadow of uncertainty over quotas hanging over them.

But grain growers will be able to take things more easily, since there is little to do at this time of year apart from maintenance, and the fields are probably too wet to take machines.

A few big employers may already be on their way to the West Indies or the ski slopes. Their workers can expect to enjoy anything up to a month's rest, it being common practice to bargain two winter weeks for every one foregone in summer.

To them, and to their detractors, it remains to wish a happy Christmas and perhaps a more tolerant and forgiving New Year

John Young

CHESS

Presenting the game of the century

With only two shopping days left before Christmas, time is running out fast for those who are still agonizng over what presents to buy. But a quick sortie to a bookshop may well save you the shame and embarrassment of having nothing to declare on Tuesday morning.

There are several new titles which are guaranteed to lift the spirits and the game of any chess player. If your luck is out and they aren't on the shelves, why not make a note of them and get someone's new year off to an absorbing start?

One which is eminently suitable for young and inexperienced players, albeit fairly expensive, is *Batsford Chess Openings* by Gary Kasparov and Ray Keene (Batsford, £18.95) which attempts to analyse and explain the nature of the openings.

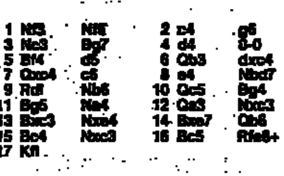
Ray Keene is also co-author (this time with David Goodman) of *USSR v the Rest of the World – Challenge Match* (Batsford, £5.95). Two more well worth considering are *The Batsford Book of Chess* by Bob Wade (£4.95) and *Grandmaster Performance* by L. Polugayevsky (Pergamon, £11.50 hardback, £6.95 paperback).

My own choice, however, would be *100 Classics of the Chessboard* by A. S. M. Dickins and H. Ebert (Pergamon, £9.50 hardback, £5.50 paperback). From it I quote the game Bobby Fischer won against Donald Byrne in the US Open championship in 1956.

This beautiful piece of chess is rightly known as "the game of the century" and makes one all the more sad that such a magnificent player as Fischer should have withdrawn form active international play. It is given in algebraic notation in the book so I have reproduced that instead of using the descriptive, which is the style normally used in *The Times*.

White: Donald Byrne. Black: Bobby Fischer. Q.P. Grunfeld Defence.

1	Nf3	Nf6	2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	Bg7	4	d4	0-0
5	Bf4	d5	6	Qb3	dxc4
7	Qxc4	c6	8	e4	Nbd7
9	Rd1	Nb6	10	Qc5	Bg4
11	Bg5	Na4	12	Qa3	Nxc3
13	bxc3	Nxe4	14	Bxe7	Qb6
15	Bc4	Nxc3	16	Bc5	Rfe8+
17	Kf1				



Fischer now played a positional sacrifice of the Queen, 17 ...Be6 which is quite correct

17	...	Be6	18	Bxb6	Bxc4+
19	Kg1	Ne2+	20	Kf1	Nxd4+
21	Kg1	Ne2+	22	Kf1	Nc3+
23	Kg1	axb6	24	Qb4	Ra4
25	Qxb6	Nxd1	26	h3	Rxa2
27	Kh2	Nxf2	28	Re1	Rxe1
29	Qd8+	Bf8	30	Nxe1	Bd5
31	Nf3	Ne4	32	Qb8	b5
33	h4	h5	34	Ne5	Kg7
35	Kg1	Bc5+	36	Kf1	Ng3+
37	Ke1	Bb4+	38	Kd1	Bb3+
39	Kc1	Ne2+	40	Kb1	Nc3+
41	Kc1	Rc2 mate.			



Harry Golombek

The Times Jumbo Crossword

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on January 8, 1985. Entries should be addressed to The Times Jumbo Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London, WC99 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, January 12, 1985.

ACROSS

1 Hang-ups at the present time (9,9).
10 Tom's point of view (4-4).
16 Such a strain when taught by ear, but entails no trouble (9).
17 Girl with high-class sex-appeal meets worker, one with a regular income (9).
18 Dish of paté some won't err in eating (7).
19 He'll help in reforming Orient, being pro-Greek (11).
20 Perform as a legislator (5).
21 Bit of writing shows Brazilian state by symbolic diagram (9).
22 Country includes inter alia nearly half of Germany (7).
23 Indian hunter from HQ of some hillside Kashmiri riflemen (7).
24 It's said to let one's opponents in (11).
25 Wondered how to adjust level in many a road (9).
28 Could be colder to north, if free from rationing (9).
30 Country in return replaces Scarface in 22 (7).
33 Connexion between King Cole and his bowl (4-4).
34 Fine semi-American binder (10).
37 Backward region boy with lots of fizz (7).
39 Such an aid to entertainment The Jazz Singer supplied (5-6).
41 Through song about unnamed Hamelin menace, a chap who's unwelcome (7,3,5).
42 My opiate to some extent, with distance, lends obscurity to the view (4-11).
43 Equipment for those intent, say, on prevention of rising damp (11).
44 With long thin legs, agent accepts difficult ride (7).
45 Superficial knowledge of point of some importance (10).
47 Brook's talk about editor making splash (8).
50 Nippers look nice moving in pairs (7).
52 Blue India broadcast making no impression on listeners (9).
54 Lady customer one's seen in different parts (9).
56 Sufferers from this complaint have to take something (11).
60 Movements lack household god's leadership in these quarters (7).
61 Nine inches, about, the Spanish hobble (7).
63 Dock-worker Donoghue meets French artist (9).
64 Chits for money seen in the bar (5).
65 Wireless version of Chopin – such modern-style music! (11).
66 Friendly enquiry about my competence (7).
67 Dutch crocks in turn ran away from turbulent water (9).
68 Can possibly be central, as officiating priest (9).
69 The less natural voice of the true love of Feste's mistress? (8).
70 Waver during rocket and bomb attacks in US (4-8,6).

DOWN

1 Topsy calm, but agitated it appears in the cell (9).
2 Whereby many races are won – in succession? (7).
3 Small fragments there in appearance on board (11).
4 Character indisposed by a type of hemp (7).
5 Pirate team shows some beef (10).
6 Decorated by mason, is bound to possess a fast car (9).
7 Lawyer employed to get you home? (11).
8 One of these is a copy of the product of Pistol's world (9,6).
9 Given, it can mean spoken aloud (7).
11 Join volunteer force in harbour (9).
12 Pair improperly taking silver and uranium in a canoe (7).
13 Banking system's turnover on foreign friend's manipulation of paper (7).
14 What connects this puzzle with the English home station? (8,3,6).
15 Lacking the characteristics of a clay pit perhaps (8).
26 Share one dupe rejected in this by disavowal (11).
27 Eastern ring Peter the Painter grabs with a lascivious look (9).
29 Read sound newspaper – The Harmonium (4-5).
31 Suppliers of petrol, latest fashion in fuel (7).
32 Such are the labyrinthine paths of clued-up types (11).
33 Abundantly clear – that the weapon's handle lacks 37 *dn* (5,2,1,9).
35 Transpontine entertainment made moral by revision (9).
36 Intended receptacle for a stuffed dormouse (6).
37 Decoration is the modern tan variety (9).
38 They may be used to furnish these rooms (6).
40 To an old boy part of the play appears disgusting (7).
41 Report as it is amended about figure for conjurer (15).
46 Frank, supporting bridge contest, is to approve automatically (6-5).
48 Fear deterring old Greeks from entering the common market? (11).
49 Abounding in incidents, police said to be worried (10).
51 Doctors set up no fast time, like 36's dormouse (9).
52 Union reform is without object, it's insinuated (8).
53 Such is the music of the muse (9).
55 Importunate lawyer? (9).
57 Daniel followed his book (7).
58 Quiver many observed in the voice (7).
59 Cancel start and finish of event in the small ring (7).
61 Like Egyptians by departing Israelites (rod not used?) (7).
62 In action losing one awkward hold (7).

Name..

Address...

....

Concise Jumbo Crossword

Solution to appear on Monday December 24, no prize

ACROSS

1 Famous Tuscan monument (7,5,2,4)
10 Dinosaur period (8)
16 Foresighted (9)
17 Unpolished (9)
18 Run playfully (7)
19 Cloth frame nails (11)
20 Of region (5)
21 Washing (9)
22 WC tank (7)
23 Lover (7)
24 Fruit ice cream (5,6)
25 Doubtful (9)
28 Lithely (9)
30 Clay layer (4,3)
33 Formal arrangements (3,5)
34 Food ladle (10)
37 Dutch man's title (7)
39 Of jaw irregularity (11)
41 Conservationist (15)
42 Betrayal (15)
43 Throttle (11)
44 Mean (7)
45 Great extent (5,5)
47 Stud horse (8)
50 US grasshopper (7)
52 Monosyllabic voice work (9)
54 Hazard benefit (4,5)
56 Bulletin display (6,5)
60 Lunar decline (7)
61 Fighter (7)
63 Military screen device (5,4)
64 Ancient Greek dialect (5)
65 Touch down (4,2,5)
66 Leaves (7)
67 Indolent person (9)
68 Confused situation (9)
69 Quartz gem (8)
70 Chromosome alteration (7,11)

DOWN

1 Mouth cosmetics (9)
2 Poetic hell gate (7)
3 Augmentative (11)
4 Female black grouse (4,3)
5 Not compulsively (10)
6 Emanations (9)
7 In working order (11)
8 Conceitedness (15)
9 Vivid red (7)
11 Generous (9)
12 Adjuster (7)
13 Prop (7)
14 Early Plymouth movement (9,8)
26 Qualification (11)
27 Common Chinese tongue (9)
29 Play defensively (9)
31 Spite (7)
32 Child medicine (11)
33 Army haircut (5,4,3,5)
35 Inherited (9)
36 Beginner (6)
37 Maims (9)
38 Leisurely walk (6)
40 Fruit tree field (7)
41 Pre-arrangeable (15)
46 Connoisseurs (11)
48 Initiate procedure (4,3,4)
49 Feigning (10)
51 Uncertainly (9)
52 Seedily (8)
53 Become outmoded (9)
55 Vamp tune (5,4)
57 Cavalry soldier (7)
58 Goodbye (7)
59 Light rain (7)
61 Literature proscription (4,3)
62 Rhine siren (7)

SOLUTION TO No 522 (last Saturday's prize concise)
ACROSS: 1 Torpedo boat 9 Initial 10 Chore 11 Elk 13 Limp 16 Gait 17 Uneasy 18 Aims 20 Toff 21 Saluki 22 Tidy 23 Chic 25 Elm 28 Lined 29 Annulet 30 Valediction
DOWN: 2 Odium 3 Pain 4 Dole 5 Back 6 Avocado 7 William Tell 8 Certificate 12 Lash up 14 Pus 15 Recall 19 Madonna 20 Tic 24 Hello 25 Edge 26 Maxi 27 Knot

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

The winners of prize concise 522 are: Mrs Pym, Sandown, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex and M. J. Pengelly, Gorwell Farm, Abbotsbury, Weymouth, Dorset.

SOLUTION TO No 527
ACROSS: 1 Trifid 5 Splice 8 Roc 9 Jinnee 10 Annexe 11 Sell 12 Superior 14 Durbar 17 Trilby 19 Asperity 22 Orgy 24 Mantle 25 Oracle 26 Poi 27 Stuart 28 Dredge
DOWN: 2 Raise 3 Fan club 4 Dresser 5 Scalp 6 Loner 7 Coxcomb 13 Ear 15 Upstart 16 Air 17 Thyroid 18 Isolate 20 Extra 21 Inept 23 Gulag

BRIDGE

Dazzling play, but the game is over

"Is it true, as you imply", a correspondent inquires, "that most bridge brilliancies are conceived in the post mortem?" Few diamonds are both flawless and top colour, I concede, but even if the point only emerges later, it can still be instructive for a future occasion.

Here is a hand that Robert Sheehan played in the World Olympiad in Seattle.

Teams, Game all. Dealer West.

North: ♠ AKJ5 ♡ K109743 ♢ – ♣ Q106
West: ♠ Q863 ♡ Q52 ♢ J73 ♣ 852
East: ♠ 10942 ♡ 6 ♢ Q98652 ♣ J7
South: ♠ 7 ♡ AJ8 ♢ AK104 ♣ AK943

W	N (Rose)	E	S (Sheehan)
1♢(1)	1♡(2)	No	2♣
No	2♠	No	3♡
No	4♣	No	4NT
No	5♢	No	5NT
No	6♡(3)	No	7NT
No	No	No	—

Opening lead ♢3

(1) A feature of the strong pass system, showing 0-10 points regardless of distribution
(2) Sheehan-Rose had arranged to play that an overcall of these rubbish bids should be treated as an opening bid, so that in effect the sequence has started No Bid, 1♡.
(3) Promising A or K to six trumps (hearts).

That was a good sequence, to lead to a fair grand slam. "If only my play had matched the bidding", Sheehan lamented. "Obviously if the ♡Q drops in two rounds there are 13 top tricks. But watch what happens if I resist the temptation to find out my fate at once. I discard a club from a dummy at trick one, and after winning the ♢A, follow with five rounds of clubs. When they break, I can spare two hearts and a spade from dummy.

"This is the seven card ending:

North: ♠ AKJ ♡ K1097 ♢ – ♣ –
West: ♠ Q8 ♡ Q52 ♢ J7 ♣ –
East: ♠ 1094 ♡ 6 ♢ 986 ♣ –
South: ♠ 7 ♡ AJ8 ♢ K104 ♣ –

"After I cash the AK, as it happens West is squeezed. Even if he were not, I have obtained enough vital clues to tell me how to play the critical suit, hearts."

From Sheehans's searching analysis to a Martin Hoffman fairy-tale. At first blush this Peter Pan adventure certainly seems credible.

Teams. East-West game. Dealer South.

North: ♠ Q87 ♡ A93 ♢ 6543 ♣ 642
West: ♠ A ♡ J ♢ KJ10987 ♣ QJ983
East: ♠ 6543 ♡ KQ8542 ♢ Q ♣ 107
South: ♠ KJ1092 ♡ 1076 ♢ A2 ♣ AK5

W	N	E	S
–	–	–	1♠
2NT	No	No	Double
3♢	3♠	No	No
No	–	–	–

West led the ♡J which declarer ducked. East overtook with the ♡Q and returned the ♢Q. Declarer won and forced out West's ♠A, by playing the ♠J. West cashed the ♢K, East throwing a club in the hope of obtaining a club ruff.

When West persevered with another diamond, declarer ruffed with the ♠9, while East parted with his last club. These early exchanges left this ending, which, because of the revealing bidding, South could visualise

North: ♠ Q8 ♡ A9 ♢ 6 ♣ 642
West: ♠ – ♡ – ♢ 1098 ♣ QJ983
East: ♠ 654 ♡ K8542 ♢ – ♣ –
South: ♠ K102 ♡ 107 ♢ – ♣ AK5

Declarer needs seven of the last eight tricks for his contract. He plays the ♠10 to dummy's ♠Q and overtakes the ♠8 with his ♠K before putting East on play with the ♠6.

This gambit of losing an unnecessary trump trick produces an immediate dividend. East is forced to return a heart into dummy's tenace, and the second heart squeezes West in the minors +420 to the Never Never Land.

It was not until some days later I saw that a more pedestrian line would suffice.

Ruff the diamond at trick five, draw trumps, and duck a heart to East. This exchanges a heart loser for the trump loser in Hoffman's line of play, but still squeezes West a trick later.

The objection to the dazzling trump unblock is that if East keeps his clubs he will have an exit card, and declarer cannot remove East's clubs without destroying the entry for the squeeze.

A pity. It was a convincing illusion, but Hoffman against Paul Daniels could make a good match.

Jeremy Flint

Peter Waymark on seasonal videos

REVIEW

Pointed remarks from old troupers





Fingered friends: Tony Hancock with Sid James and a vintage shot of Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise in the days before their Christmas shows became as important as the turkey

Hancock: The Blood Donor (with The Missing Page and Twelve Angry Men); The Lift (with The Ladies' Man and Lord Byron Lived Here). Each 90 mins. BBC Video, £24.95, released Jan 21

Sykes: Golf, Stranger and Squatters (88 mins). BBC Video, £29.95

Morecambe and Wise Musical Extravaganzas (60 mins). BBC Video, £19.99

Singalongamax with Max Bygraves (55 mins). Peppermint Video, £19.95

The Illustrated Victorian Songbook (55 mins). By post from Eng Video, 2 Nimrod Way, Elgar Road, Reading, Berkshire, £19.95.

"Stone me", he is probably saying, "they've got me on video. All that talent in little plastic boxes. Trapped for posterity I am." And the bullfrog face creases into the uneasy grin of someone not quite sure he believes it is happening.

It is a quarter of century since Tony Hancock was in his prime and a generation has grown up to whom he may be no more than a footnote to broadcasting history, like ITMA or Mr Middleton the gardener. Even the original Hancock fans will have had their memories dimmed by the passage of the years and their perception of comedy modified by more recent shows. To bring him back on video may, therefore, be a risk but on the evidence of the first six of 18 Hancock half-hours being issued over the next few months, not a very serious one. You have only to watch a few minutes of, say, *The Blood Donor*, to realize that Hancock's humour is indestructible, his appeal unlimited by time or setting.

Hancock, the radio and television character, was an amalgam of Hancock the man and the imagination of two brilliant scriptwriters, Ray Galton and Alan Simpson. It was they who seized on the Hancock persona, developed it and gave it its dangerous edge. Behind the comedy there is always the hint of desperation.

Galton and Simpson wrote 161 Hancock scripts – radio and television – between 1954 and 1961, an output extraordinary not only for its quantity but also its quality. Looking at these old shows you come back time and again to the words, the rough poetry of lower middle-class gentility. It can almost be said that the dialogue makes the pictures superfluous. "Are you insinuating that I'm portly?" demands Hancock during that priceless contretemps in the BBC lift. The choice of language expresses precisely the attempt to stand on dignity, to rise above the riff-raff. Sid James, Hancock's proletarian foil, would never have said "insinuating" or "portly".

Eric Sykes was an early contributor to *The Goon Show* but the long running television series which he wrote and starred in was humour of a gentler and less subversive kind. It evoked a suburban middle-class world of crossword solvers, golfing bores and naive vicars, disrupted from time to time by such alien forces as squatters but always regaining its equilibrium.

In a twist on the usual domestic situation, Sykes and Hattie Jacques played brother and sister, Richard Wattis the pompous neighbour, and Deryck Guyler the local bobby. None of the characters was strongly developed but for two decades the series managed to be unhackneyed, quietly amusing and well judged within its limits.

It is sad there will not be any more Morecambe and Wise Christmas shows to give the lads a chance to hoof it up with such unlikely partners as Vanessa Redgrave and Glenda Jackson. Two-thirds of the world might be starving but the prospect of seeing Angela Rippon's legs was enough to keep a whole nation on tenterhooks.

The song and dance routines were tangential to the essence and glory of Morecambe and Wise, which was their prowess as cross-talk comics, forever enriching and extending a well used genre. But it is good to have a video reminder of Glenda and Vanessa and Angela's high kicks and the likes of Frank Bough and Eddie Waring cavorting about in sailor suits. As it happens, the best items on the tape have nothing to do with guest stars. They are the white-tie-and-tails tap routine in which Eric and Ernie find themselves constantly upstaged and eventually swamped by other dancers; and the pair making breakfast to the incongruous strains of *The Stripper*.

Say what you like about Max Bygraves but he is shrewd enough to know who his customers are. "Makes a change from Boy George", he exclaims to the largely middle-aged and elderly who make up his audience for this amiable trip through the pop songs of the pre-punk era. Indeed it does. The cassette is intended "for the many music lovers seeking an alternative entertainment to rock music". Done up in white suit and boater, Max moves effortlessly from Fats Waller to *Knees Up Mother Brown* with a nod towards the Beatles to prove he is not entirely out of sympathy with modern idioms.

The trouble is that one number is treated exactly like the next, producing a bland purée like supermarket Muzak. Who would guess from Max's rendering that *Underneath the Arches* was once described, accurately, as "the theme song of the slump"? The enterprise also cries out for a more intimate setting than a cavernous studio and for a closer rapport between performer and audience.

The producers of *Singalongamax* could have taken a leaf or two out of *The Illustrated Victorian Songbook*, a selection of popular ballads and music hall songs performed by the Aba Daba company from their pub base near King's Cross station. Here is genuine atmosphere and audience involvement; and performed is the word, for this is no perfunctory unrolling of choruses but songs presented in the round, revealing the full possibilities of their comedy and sentiment.

The repertoire ranges from *Beautiful Dreamer* to *Home Sweet Home* and *The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo*, each given individual treatment by artists of spirit and feeling. It is a pleasure to commend a video made outside the commercial mainstream with a small budget but lots of talent.

IN THE GARDEN

Hanging on to the magic of mistletoe

Christmas customs 1875

Devil's Fuge, all heal and even bird lime are but some of the common names of mistletoe, *Viscum album*. I'm not sure of their derivation as in this country we now refer to the plant almost exclusively as mistletoe. It belongs to an unusual family, *Loranthaceae*, and although much of the old lore about mistletoe is lost in time, it has long been associated with ancient rites at Christmas time. It is said to have played an important part in the ceremonies of ancient druids and in classical times it was thought to have both magical and medicinal properties.

It also played an important part in German and Norse mythology – it was from an arrow made from the wood of mistletoe that the god Balder was slain. Celts held it in great veneration as well, especially if it grew on oak. It was said to bring happiness and good fortune so long as the branches from the mistletoe did not touch the ground; perhaps this is why we always hang our mistletoe up.

The leaves and berries have been used in many potions by herbalists and were reputed to control heart problems, and circulatory and digestive disorders. Today the berries are known to have harmful effects, but the amount needed to be taken is so great that there is little likelihood of any serious harm coming to anyone eating them.

Mistletoe is to be found most frequently on trees which have a soft, spongy bark, such as apple, some limes and black poplar. It is rare on oak but willow, elm, ash and thorns also act as hosts. Bunches can be quite large and very luxuriant.

It is a parasite and although initially there would appear to be little damage to the host, the fact that another plant is drawing nutrient from it will eventually cause some lessening of vigour.

There are about 70 different species of mistletoe throughout the world, but *Viscum album* is the only form of the genus known in this country. It has at least three distinct strains, which is one of the reasons why it can be very difficult to get it to take on trees of our choice.

It is an evergreen and is classed as a shrub; flowers are found in the leaf axils usually with different sexes on different bushes, although sometimes both sexes are found on a single plant. Pale white fruits are produced in the late summer and the single seed is covered with a sticky pulp.

Under normal conditions the mistletoe depends on birds to spread its seed and has no other natural way of propagating itself. Seed-eating birds, and in particular the missel thrush, love the white fruits. (The common name of the missel thrush, *Turdus viscivous*, reflects its dependency on mistletoe.) When a seed is eaten it is either passed through the bird's stomach or rubbed off the beak onto the bark of the tree where the viscous sap around the seed makes it stick.

It is possible to try to propagate mistletoe yourself. Take a handful of fresh berries and rub the seeds into the bark of a suitable host (ideally an old established apple or a black poplar). The seeds should be rubbed into cracks and crevices in the bark on the underside of the branch. They will adhere easily and your hands will become sticky with the sap. The seed sends out a radicle which naturally makes its way into the branch and two plants eventually become as one.

Seed sown in February or March, at the latest, will often take some months to germinate and it takes plants resulting from these seeds at least seven years to bear fruit.

I can but wish that the magical properties of mistletoe work for you this Christmas.

Ashley Stephenson

Tender loving care

Plants which are tender need not be shortlived; in fact, many can be made to last for years if they are looked after properly. By this time of year most of these should have been lifted and put in the greenhouse or shed to dry off, ready for winter storage.

Begonias are probably the most tender of the plants that need this kind of treatment: even a few degrees of frost can seriously damage them.

The first thing to do is to ensure the foliage has dried off as much as possible, then this should be gently eased away from the tuber. Do not be rough; if it is at all hard to remove it should be left a while longer so as to not to damage the stock. Tease away the soil which has remained on the root system, which should have dried as much as the foliage so that, when cleaning is complete, you are left with a bald tuber. These are then ready to be stored. Dahlias and gladioli should be treated in much the same way.

The store must be frost free, but it should be cool and there should be free circulation of air. Although it is not essential to keep out all light, the darker the better.

Place a little dry peat in the bottom of a tray before beginning to lay out the root stocks. Gladioli and begonias can be laid out in a layer on the bottom of a shallow tray; they should be as close together as possible without touching. Gently riddle dry peat over the tray allowing the peat to fill the interspaces. Dahlias are much larger and need a bigger, deeper tray. A gentle dusting of lime sulphur is a help if there was any disease while the plants were growing. Inspect regularly over the winter.

Entertainments

GLC SOUTH BANK CONCERT HALLS

GLC South Bank Concert Halls, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX
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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET
The Nutcracker
26 Dec.–16 Jan. Evenings 7.30 Matinees 3.00
Artistic Director PETER SCHAUFUSS, star of BBC TV's 'Dancer' Series.
Seats £3–£11. Concessions. No performance on Sundays.

Sunday 30 Dec 3.15 pm & 7.30 pm	NEW YEAR'S JOHANN STRAUSS GALA Johann Strauss Orchestra & Dancers in the costumes of the period Jack Rothstein (dir/vln) Ann James (sop) Geraldine Stephenson (choreographer) Music of the Strauss Family. £3, £4, £5, £6, £7, £8 *Raymond Gubbay Ltd*

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Saturday 22 Dec 7.45 pm	NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA Vivienne Price (cond) Berlioz Overture, Roman Carnival; Britten Simple Symphony; Strauss Horn Conc No 1 (1st mvt); Handel Concerto Grosso, Op.6/8; wks by Rimsky-Korsakov, Anthony Carter, etc. £1.50, £2.50, £3, £5 (only) National Children's Orch
31 Dec & 1 Jan 7.45 pm	TZIGANKA Faina Zinova (Russian gipsy singer) Bibs Ekkel (director/balalaika) The Argonotts THE BALALAIKA DANCE GROUP Alyosha Zolotuhin (domra) Simon Pearce (piano) Bright Shines the Moon Music, songs & dances from Russia, Georgia, Ukraine £2.50, £3.50, £4 Fred Gore
3-5 Jan 7.45 pm	Buff Hardie, George Donald, Stephen Robertson in SCOTLAND THE WHAT? the hilarious revue! Director: James Logan "JUST THREE MEN, TWO CHAIRS AND ONE PIANO — AND THE PROMISE THAT YOU WON'T LEAVE WITHOUT LAUGHING" £4.50, £5.50, £6.50 James Logan

THE JOEYS at CHRISTMAS
26–30 Dec. Evenings at 7.45 Queen Elizabeth Hall. £3 £4 £5. 'A long-size dosage' of stylish satire and political comedy from a 'distinctly lunatic and very funny' four-man team.

PURCELL ROOM

THE TEN-DAY WONDER FAMILY FESTIVAL
27 DEC – 5 JAN
An Extravaganza of Fun for children of all ages.
FREE PLAYSHOPS — mornings at 11 in Queen Elizabeth Foyer. Admission FREE.
27, 28, 29 Dec. Magic Box Entertainment; 30, 31 Dec. Circus Skills; 1, 2, 3 Jan. Acrobatics & Tumbling; 4, 5 Jan. Dance with London Festival Ballet.
PERFORMANCES at 2.30 in Purcell Room. Adults £1, children under sixteen 50p
27, 28, 29 Dec. David Wood's Magic & Music Show; 30, 31 Dec. Reg Bolton's Suitcase Circus; 1, 2 Jan. Derek Carpenter presents Pantomania; 3 Jan. Derek Carpenter's Clown & Puppet Show. 4, 5 Jan. The Singing Kettle. Free Creche — Ring Box Office for details.

GLC Working for the Arts in London

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER at 3.15 & 7.30



New Year's JOHANN STRAUSS GALA
JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA
Directed from the violin by JACK ROTHSTEIN
JOHANN STRAUSS DANCERS in costumes of the Period
ANN JAMES soprano GERALDINE STEPHENSON choreography
The Glorious Music of the Strauss Family including Roses from the South, Tritsch Tratsch Polka, Village Swallows, Im Fluge, Radetzky March, Wine Women and Song Waltz, Pizzicato Polka, Egyptian March, Cachucha Galop, Moulinet Polka, Wiener Blut Waltz.
Tickets: Matinee at 3.15: £3, £4, £5, £6, £7 Evening at 7.30: £4, £5, £6, £7, £8 (ONLY)
Box Office (01-928 3191) Credit Cards (01-928 8800)

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents SUNDAY 6 JANUARY at 7.30



BALLET GALA NIGHT
Introduced by BERYL GREY
with the
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA Conductor DAVID COLEMAN
Guest Dancers
WAYNE EAGLING KAREN PAISEY
Prog. inc. Delibes: Coppelia (excerpts); Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake Suite; Weber/Berlioz: Invitation to the Dance (Spectre de la Rose); Tchaikovsky: Sleeping Beauty Waltz; Delibes: Sylvia (Excerpts) and Guest Dancers in Tchaikovsky: Sleeping Beauty: Grand pas de Deux; Rachmaninov: Rhapsody.
£4, £5, £6, £7, £8 (ONLY) Box Office (01-928 3191) Credit Cards (01-928 8800)

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents SUNDAY 13 JANUARY at 7.30



THE MAGIC OF D'OYLY CARTE
GILBERT & SULLIVAN
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA Conductor: FRASER GOULDING
Kenneth Sandford, John Ayldon, Geoffrey Shovelton, Alistair Donkin, Patricia Leonard, Vivien Tierney, Lorraine Daniels and chorus.
27 former members of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company in songs and scenes from the Savoy Operas of Gilbert & Sullivan inc. The Mikado, The Gondoliers, The Pirates of Penzance, HMS Pinafore and The Yeoman of the Guard.
£4, £5, £6, £7, £8 (only) Box Office (01-928 3191) Credit Cards (01-928 8800)

Wigmore Hall

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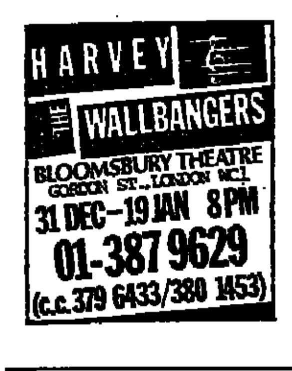
Box Office and Credit Cards 01-935 2141 Mailing list £2.20 a year

Friday 28 Dec 7.30 pm	GUILDHALL STRING ENSEMBLE Wolf: Italian Serenade; Rossini: String Sonata No.3, Mendelssohn: String Symphony No.9; Tchaikovsky: Souvenir de Florence. £4, £3.20, £2.50, £1.80 Mendelssohn/Italian Series
Saturday 29 Dec 7.30 pm	CHILINGIRIAN STRING QUARTET. JONATHAN WILLIAMS horn Haydn: Quartet in B flat Op.76 No.4 'Sunrise'; Mozart: Horn Quintet in E flat K.407; Beethoven: Quartet in E minor Op 59 No.2 'Rasumovsky'. £4.50, £3.50, £2.50, £2 Wigmore Master Concerts
Sunday 30 Dec 7.30 pm	MAGGIE COLE harpsichord & lute harpsichord NIGEL NORTH lute. JS Bach: Partita in D BWV 828, Suite in G BWV 995; Suite in B flat BWV 1010. Trio Sonata in F BWV 530. £4.50, £3.50, £2.50, £2 Early Music & Bar. Series: Guitar & Lute Series/Robert White Artist Management
Monday 31 Dec 7.30 pm	THE KING'S CONSORT dir. Robert King A New Year's Eve Celebration. Monteverdi: Vespers for Christmas Day, Schütz: The Christmas Story. £6, £5, £4, £3 The King's Consort
Wednesday 2 Jan 7.30 pm	RICHARD MARKHAM & DAVID NETTLE two pianos Holst: The Planets; Robert Walker: Passacaglia (1st perf); Grainger: Fantasy on Gershwin's 'Porgy & Bess'. £4, £3.20, £2.50, £1.80 Ron Gonsalves
Thursday 3 Jan 7.30 pm	PETERBOROUGH STRING ORCHESTRA Mozart: Divertimento in F K.138, Stravinsky: Concerto in D 'Basle'; Christopher Brown: Into the Sun (1st perf), Barber: Adagio; Britten: Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge Op.10. £4, £3.20, £2.50, £1.80
Friday 4 Jan 7.30 pm	BETH SPENDLOVE violin MICHAEL DUSSEK piano Brahms: Sonatensatz; Poulenc: Violin Sonata, Maconchy: Six Miniatures; Mendelssohn: Violin Sonata in F minor Op 4, Berkeley: Elegy and Toccata Op.33 Nos 2 & 3; Szymanowski: Fontaine d'Arethuse; Kreisler: Tambourin Chinois. £4, £3.20, £2.50, £1.80 Jane Gray

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Sun/Thurs December 23/27 3.00pm	THE SNOWMAN. (Blake). Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf. Howard Blake conducts Sinfonia of London. Ian Lavender (narrator). All seats £3.80. *Raymond Gubbay Ltd*
Wednesday December 26 7.30pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Lionel Friend (cond). Peter Donohoe (piano). Beethoven: Overture 'Coriolan'; Piano Concerto No5, 'Emperor'; Symphony No3, 'Eroica'. £8.50, £7.50, £6.50, £5.50, £4.50. *Raymond Gubbay Ltd.*
Thursday December 27 8.00pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. James Judd (cond), Howard Shelley (piano). Rossini: Overture; 'The Barber of Seville'. Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite No1. Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No2. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No6, 'Pathétique'. £7.50, £6.50 only. *Raymond Gubbay Ltd.*
Friday December 28 3.00pm	THAT'S CRICKET. Brian Johnston leads his panel of guest celebrities Tom Graveney and Fred Trueman in a fascinating discussion on cricket through the years. Interesting archive film material researched and assembled by John Huntley. All seats £4 *Raymond Gubbay Ltd.*
Friday December 28 8.00pm	JOSHUA RIFKIN plays Scott Joplin. New programme includes Fig Leaf Rag, Sugar-Cane, The Entertainer, Search Light Rag, Rose Leaf Rag, Wall Street Rag, Paragon Rag, Scott Joplin's New Rag. £7.50, £6, £4.50, £3. *Raymond Gubbay Ltd.*
Saturday December 29 3.00pm	NAPOLEON. Abel Gance's epic film. The Wren Orchestra of London. Carl Davis (cond). The film runs for about 5¼ hours plus intervals. £16.50, £14.50, £12.50, £10. *Raymond Gubbay Ltd.*
Sunday December 30 3.00pm	BEECHAM MARATHON. Timothy West (Beecham). By Caryl Brahms and Ned Sherrin with Terry Wale. Directed by Patrick Garland. Timothy West recreating his highly acclaimed portrayal of Sir Thomas Beecham. £6.50, £5, £3.50, £2.50. *Raymond Gubbay Ltd.*
Sunday December 30 7.30pm	ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Nicholas Cleobury (cond). Robert Cohen (cello). Mendelssohn: 'The Hebrides' (Fingal's Cave). Mozart: Eine kleine Nachtmusik. Elgar: Cello Concerto, Beethoven: Symphony No6, 'Pastoral'. £8.50, £7.50, £6.50, £5.50, £4.50. *Raymond Gubbay Ltd.*
Monday/Tuesday December 31/January 1 7.45pm	NEW YEAR VIENNESE CONCERTS. London Symphony Orchestra. John Georgiadis (cond./violin). Johann Strauss I: Almacs Quadrille; Radetzky March; William Tell Galop. Johann Strauss II: Overture 'Die Fledermaus': Tritsch Tratsch Polka; Roses from the South Waltz; Thunder and Lightning Polka; Blue Danube Waltz. Johann Strauss II & Josef Strauss: Pizzicato Polka. Carl Ziehrer: Busserl (Kissing) Polka Mazurka. Josef Strauss: Feuerfest Polka. Eduard Strauss: Feste Geister Waltz. £7.50, £6.50, £5.50, £4, £3.
Wednesday January 2 5.00pm	NEW YEAR'S TEDDY BEARS' CONCERT. London Concert Orchestra. Fraser Goulding (cond) Ian Wallace (narrator). A concert for all the family. Please bring your own teddy bears. Come early and meet the bears. 2pm £5, £3.80, 5pm a few seats still available. *Raymond Gubbay Ltd.*
Thursday/Saturday January 3/5 7.45pm	An evening with Cleo Laine and the John Dankworth Quintet with the London Symphony Orchestra. £10, £8, £6, £4.
Friday January 4 7.45pm	LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. Paul Freeman (cond). Massimiliano Damerini (piano). Verdi: Overture 'The Force of Destiny'. Brahms: Piano Concerto No1. Beethoven: Symphony No5. £8, £7, £6, £5, £3.50, £2.50. *John Higham International Artists.*



RAYMOND GUBBAY presents at the BARBICAN
WEDNESDAY NEXT 26 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm
BEETHOVEN EVENING
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
See Barbican panel for details

THURSDAY NEXT 27 DECEMBER at 3 pm
THE SNOWMAN
Howard Blake conducts his award-winning score and PETER & THE WOLF
IAN LAVENDER narrator
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THURSDAY NEXT 27 DECEMBER at 8 pm
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor JAMES JUDD HOWARD SHELLEY piano
See Barbican panel

FRIDAY NEXT 28 DECEMBER at 3 pm
THAT'S CRICKET
See Barbican panel for details

FRIDAY NEXT 28 DECEMBER at 8 pm
JOSHUA RIFKIN
plays Scott Joplin
See Barbican panel for details

SATURDAY NEXT 29 DECEMBER at 3 pm
NAPOLEON
See Barbican panel for details
In association with the British Film Institute

SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER at 3 pm
TIMOTHY WEST AS BEECHAM
By Caryl Brahms & Ned Sherrin with Terry Wale
Directed by Patrick Garland
See Barbican panel for details

SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER at 7.30 pm
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor: NICHOLAS CLEOBURY
ROBERT COHEN cello
See Barbican panel for details

WEDNESDAY 2 JANUARY
extra performance at 2 pm
NEW YEAR'S TEDDY BEARS CONCERT
5 pm a few seats still available
See Barbican panel for details

SUNDAY 13 JANUARY at 7.30 pm
Dukas .... THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
Grieg .... PEER GYNT SUITE NO.1
Tchaikovsky .... VIOLIN CONCERTO
Elgar .... ENIGMA VARIATIONS
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor: ENRIQUE BATIZ LELAND CHEN violin
£3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £7.50, £8.50

SUNDAY 20 JANUARY at 7.30 pm
Mozart .... THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO OVERTURE
Handel .... WATER MUSIC SUITE
Grieg .... PIANO CONCERTO
Beethoven .... SYMPHONY NO.3 (EROICA)
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor: MARTIN FISCHER-DIESKAU VOVKA ASHKENAZY piano
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JOHN HIGHAM INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS LIMITED
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MASSIMILIANO DAMERINI piano
Verdi: Overture 'The Force of Destiny'
Brahms: Piano Concerto No.1 Beethoven: Symphony No.5
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LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET
From Wed to Jan 16. Eves 7.30. Mats 3.00
THE NUTCRACKER

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Today 1.30. Wed 8.00. Thur 2.30 & 7.30. Fri 7.30 The Nutcracker. Ballet casting info 01-240 9815.
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Ton't 7.00. Wed 1.30 Die Fledermaus.

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Theatre closed Dec 24 & 25
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Prevs from 2 Feb. Opens 12 Feb.

ALDWYCH THEATRE 836 6404/0641. CC 379 6233. Group Sales 930 6123. Mon-Thur 8, Fri & Sat 5 & 8.30
ROWAN ATKINSON IS THE NERD
by LARRY SHUE
Directed by MIKE OCKRENT
"An ambulatory Amityville Horror ... a wonderful display of grotesque comedy" Gdn. "SHATTERINGLY FUNNY" T.Out. "BLISSFULLY LUDICROUS" FT
No Perf Dec 24, 25.

AMBASSADORS 836 6111 cc 741 9999 Grp Sales 930 6123. Evgs 8.0. Sat 5.30 & 8.30. Tues Mat 3.0. No Perf Dec 24, 25. Dec 26 at 3.0 & 8.0.
MATINEE TODAY 3.00
THE LITTLE THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY
ALAN AYCKBOURN'S INTIMATE EXCHANGES
This Week: A PAGEANT
Directed by ALAN AYCKBOURN
"The most exciting theatrical concept to have hit the West End since The Norman Conquests" S. Express.

APOLLO Shafts Ave S CC 01-437 2663. 434 3598. Grp Sales 01-930 6123. Mon to Fri 8.00. Thurs 3.00. Sats 5.00 & 8.30. No perfs 24 & 25 Dec. extra Mat 26 Dec at 5.00
KEITH BAXTER MILO O'SHEA
in "CORPSE!"
by Gerald Moon
"A WILD COMEDY THRILLER" ... "NOT SO MUCH A WHODUNNIT AS A WHODUNNIT TO WHOM"
Half price on top price seats for children, all Mat Perfs.

APOLLO VICTORIA 828 8665 cc 630 6262 Grp Sales 930 6123
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Lyrics by RICHARD STILGOE directed by TREVOR NUNN
"A MUSICAL THAT SURPASSES ANYTHING AROUND IN EVERY DIMENSION" D Exp
Evgs 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.0
BOX OFFICE OPEN 10am-8pm
100 tickets are held for Tuesday matinees only, available at the Box Office from 10am on day of performance, limited to 2 per person. Some £2 standing room tickets are available ½ hour before every performance for the unwaged and students.
Apply daily to box office for returns. Now booking through September 1985 N.B. No perf Dec 24/25 Extra Mat Thu 27 Dec at 3.00

BARBICAN 01-628 8795/638 8891 cc (Mon-Sun 10am-8pm) For inclusive hotel/ticket package 01-330 7111
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
BARBICAN THEATRE
PETER PAN today 2.00 & 7.30. Seats avail for eve perfs Jan 15-17 (runs 3hrs 15).
CHRIST CHURCH, SPITALFIELDS LONDON EC1
THE WINTER'S TALE final perf ton't 7.30. Tickets from Barbican.

ARTS 836 2132. Leic. Sq. Tube. FEMALE PARTS by DARIO FO & FRANCA RAME. "Recommended" T. Out. Tues to Sat 8.30. Sun at 7.30. No perfs Dec 24/25/26.

ASTORIA THEATRE (next to Tottenham Court Road Station) Box Office 734 4287/8/9. cc 379 6433. Group Sales 930 6123.
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER presents
MELVYN BRAGG & HOWARD GOODALL'S THE HIRED MAN
"UNBEATABLE & UNMISSABLE" Punch
"Howard Goodall's score is one of the finest I have heard in a British Musical in years" Guardian. "A HIGHLIGHT OF THIS YEAR & A MAGNIFICENT BRITISH ACHIEVEMENT" Time Out. "THE BEST MUSICAL OF THE YEAR" Punch.
Eves 8.0, [illegible] Sat 4.0, N.B. No perf Dec 24/25 [illegible] Mat Thu 27 Dec at 3.00

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE 01-387 9629/01-380 1453 cc 01-380 1453/01-379 6433.
DAVID WOOD'S
THE GINGERBREAD MAN
starring PETER DUNCAN
UNTIL 13 JAN Today perfs 2.30 & 5.30 & Sun perf 3.30 Next week Wed 8.30 Thu & Fri 2.30 & 5.30 (Contact Box Office for further perf times inc Sun). Half price child's ticket with each adult ticket (Sat & Sun only)

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE 387 9629 cc 380 1453/379 6433.
HARVEY & THE WALLBANGERS "Catch them if you can" S. Times 31 dec to 19 Jan 8pm no Suns.

BUSH THEATRE 743 3388. SIMON CALLOW in MELANCHOLY JACQUES. Ton't & Tomor 8pm. No perfs Dec 24-26.

COMEDY 930 2578. CC 839 1438 Eves 8.0, Fri & Sat 6 and 8.45
BEST MUSICAL Eve Std
THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING SMASH-HIT
LITTLE SHOP of horrors
2nd GREAT YEAR!!
"I LOVED IT – HOPE IT RUNS FOR 1,000 YEARS" Time Out
SEATS AT SOME PERFS FROM £5.00
Group Sales Box Office 930 6123 N.B. No perf Dec 24/25 Extra Mat Thu 27 Dec at 3.00

COTTESLOE 928 2252 CC 928 5933 'S' (National Theatre's small auditorium – low price tkts). Preview Ton't & Dec 26 at 7.30. Then Jan 17 & 18. Opens Jan 19 THE NATIVITY. (The building will be closed Dec 24/25).

CRITERION. S 930 3216 cc 379 6565 741 9999/379 6433. Groups 836 3962. Mon to Fri 8.0. Thurs Mat 2.30. Sat 5.30 & 8.30.
THE DAILY MIRROR & THE DAILY MAIL AGREE ....
"BRITISH FARCE AT ITS BEST"
The Theatre of Comedy Company
JAMES BOLAM BERNARD CRIBBINS
BRYAN PRINGLE
in
RUN FOR YOUR WIFE
Written and Directed by RAY COONEY
Over 700 side-splitting performances.
"SHOULD RUN FOR LIFE" Sunday Express
Special Theatre Dinner Criterion Brasserie/Stalls or Circle Ticket £13.50. No perf Dec 25. Extra Mat Dec 26 at 2.30.

DOMINION THEATRE Tott Ct Rd W1 Until Feb 9. Ton't 7.30. Sub 2.30 & 7.30
Theatre Closed Christmas Day
KEITH HARRIS & ORVILLE
in HUMPTY DUMPTY
A New Musical Pantomime
Tickets from £3.50 to £7.50 £2 OFF: Children & OAPs 01-580 9562/3 cc 01-323 1676/7.

DONMAR WAREHOUSE Earlham St. Cov Gdn. 379 6565/836 3028. (No perfs Dec 24/25/26/Jan 1.
Ton't 7.30
MAJOR ROAD THEATRE COMPANY in
MOHICANS
and at 9.30pm
FASCINATING AIDA
CHRISTMAS CABARET

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL 01-836 8108 01-240 9066 01-240 9067
DAVID MERRICK'S
Award Winning Broadway Musical
42ND STREET
"A BLISSFUL EVENING, EVERYTHING POSSIBLE FOR A MUSICAL TO HAVE & STILL PLENTY MORE – DAZZLING!" D. Mail. "EXHILARATING" D Tel. "YOU WON'T FIND A SHOW IN LONDON WITH MORE RAZZLE DAZZLE" D. Exp.
Evgs 8.0. Mats Wed 3.0. Sats 5.0 & 8.30. Group Sales 01-930 6123. Booking until July 1985.
BOX OFFICE OPEN Mon-Sat 10am-8pm. Special demand extra matinee Thurs Dec 27 at 3.0.

DUCHESS THEATRE 836 8243 240 9648 S
HELEN MIRREN
in
"EXTREMITIES"
A new play by William Mastrosimone
"A POTENT PIECE OF REAL RAW DRAMA" Daily Mail
"A POWERFUL AND DISTURBING THRILLER" Std.
Evgs Mon-Fri 8.0. Mats Weds 3.0. Sats 5.30 & 8.30.
SUITABLE FOR ADULTS ONLY

DUKE OF YORK'S S 836 5122 CC 836 9837/379 6433 Grp Sales 930 6123. Eves 8. Mat Thur 3, Sat 5 & 8.30.
"TRIUMPH ON TAP" Eve Std
STEPPING OUT
A Hit Comedy by RICHARD HARRIS
Directed by JULIA McKENZIE
"LAUGH YOURSELF SILLY" T Out "Had the first night audience yelling for more" D. Mail. "Must surely take the town ... GO NOW" D. Tel. "Roars of approval" Times. "It's going to tap, tap, tap forever" N.O.W. "A brand new All Dancing, All Joking Smash-Hit Comedy ..."
A GREAT EVENING" B.B.C.

FORTUNE 01-836 2238. CC 379 6433. Mon-Fri 1.30 & 4.30. Sat 11 & 2.0. Until 12 Jan. Still a few seats avail. No perf 25 Dec.
TOAD OF TOAD HALL
25th consecutive London Season of A. A. Milne's Classic Children's musical.

GARRICK CC S 01-836 4601. Eves 8.00, Wed Mat 3.00, Sat 5.00 & 8.00. 14th HYSTERICAL YEAR, LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY IN THE WORLD
NO SEX, PLEASE — WE'RE BRITISH
2 HOURS OF NON-STOP LAUGHTER
Directed by Allan Davis
CC 379 6433. Group sales 01-930 6123
OVER 5,500 FANTASTIC PERFS.
No perfs Dec 24 & 25. No matinee Dec 26. Dec 27 perfs 3.00 & 8.00.

GLOBE cc 01-437 1592.
Andrew Lloyd Webber presents the
COMEDY OF THE YEAR
Society of West End Theatre Award
DAISY PULLS IT OFF
by Denise Deegan
Directed by David Gilmore
"ABSOLUTELY SPIFFING" D Tel "FULL MARKS FOR DAISY" Std "A gold star to Daisy for a delightful show" Daily Mail. Evgs 8.0. Mats Wed 3.0. Sat 5.0. Group Sales 930 6123.
"THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE HOOT AND A SCREAM" S Times.
SECOND GREAT YEAR
N.B. No perf Dec 24/25 Extra Mat Thu 27 Dec at 3.00

GREENWICH THEATRE 01-858 7755. Evgs 7.45, Mats Sats 2.30. (No Perfs Dec 24, 25). Extra Mat Dec 26 at 4.0 CIDER WITH ROSIE by LAURIE LEE, adapted for the stage by JAMES ROOSE-EVANS.

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE 722 9301. Evgs 8.0. Sat Mat 4.30 & 8.15. No Perf Dec 24, 25. Extra Mat Dec 27 at 3.0. KISSING GOD. Devised & Dir by Phil Young. Suitable for Adults only.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL 930 9832 Group Sales 930 6123
MAGGIE SMITH JOAN PLOWRIGHT & MICHAEL JAYSTON
in
The Chichester Festival Theatre Production of
THE WAY OF THE WORLD
Directed by William Gaskill.
"Maggie Smith returns to our stage in glory" Fin Times. "The most outstanding achievement was that of Joan Plowright" Std. "William Gaskill's superb production" Punch. Evgs 7.30 Mats Wed 2.30 Sat 3.0. No perf Dec 24 & 25. Xmas week Mats Thurs 2.30, Sat 3.0.
FOR A LIMITED SEASON ONLY.

HER MAJESTY'S 01-930 6606. CC 01-930 4025. Group Sales 930 6123.
WEST SIDE STORY
"THE BEST MUSICAL EVER WRITTEN" City Limits. "FINGER CLICKING GOOD" Std. "EXPLOSIVE PRODUCTION" S Times. Mon-Fri evgs 7.30. Sat 4.45 & 8.15. Mats Wed 2.30. All perfs to May 1985 now on sale. Open Xmas Eve.

LONDON PALLADIUM 01-437 7373. Evenings 7.30. Mats Wed & Sats 2.45
LONDON'S GREAT STAR STUDDED SPECTACULAR MUSICAL
TOMMY STEELE in SINGIN' IN THE RAIN
with ROY CASTLE
"TOMMY STEELE'S MERE PRESENCE ON THE STAGE LIGHTS UP THE ENTIRE THEATRE" S Times.
EXCLUSIVE CHRISTMAS
TEL NO. 01-437 6891
Open 24 hrs a day including Sundays and throughout the Xmas holidays. NOTE: NO PERFS DEC 24/25. EXTRA MAT DEC 27 at 2.45. BOOKING OPEN FOR ALL PERFORMANCES TO NEXT JUNE. Credit Cards: 01-437 2055/734 8961. Night/Sunday Ansafone: 01-437 6892.

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH S CC 741 2311. THEATRE CLOSED Dec 25. Ton't 7.30, Mon 2.30 & 6.0, Wed & Thur 2.30 & 7.30.
The Super Soul Musical
THE WIZ
"IT'S A RIGHT-ON 'GET ON DOWN' HOT GOSPELLING MUSICAL BONANZA" F.T. "Looks and sounds stunning" T. Times
LYRIC STUDIO: Evgs 8.0. PEPPER'S AMERICA.

KING'S HEAD. 226 1916. Dnr 7pm, Show 8 pm. MOLLY PARKIN, ONE WOMAN SHOW.

LYRIC Shaftesbury Ave. 437 3686 CC 434 1050/434 1550/741 9999. Grp Sales 930 6123. Evgs. 8.00. Sat 5.30 & 8.30. Thur Mat 3.00. No perf Dec 24 & 25.
THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY
DINSDALE LANDEN GEMMA CRAVEN
NEIL PEARSON DAVID JOHN
JOHN CHANNELL BELL
and PATRICK O'CONNELL
LOOT
By JOE ORTON
Directed by JONATHAN LYNN
"I laughed until the tears ran down my face" F.T.

LYTTELTON 928 2252 CC 928 5933 'S' (National Theatre's proscenium stage). Today 2.30 (low price mat) & 7.45, Dec 26 7.45, then Dec 27 to Jan 1 & Jan 17 to 24 the triple award-winning WILD HONEY by Chekhov, version by Michael Frayn. (The building will be closed Dec 24/25).

MAYFAIR 629 3036
RICHARD TODD
THE BUSINESS OF MURDER
The hit thriller by Richard Harris
4TH GREAT YEAR
OVER 1500 PERFORMANCES
SEATS AVAILABLE FROM DEC 26
BOOK NOW!

MAYFAIR S CC 629 3037. UNTIL JANUARY 5 – Twice daily 2.0, 4.0 Wed. Sats 10.30, 2.0 and 4.0
SOOTY'S CHRISTMAS SHOW

MERMAID THEATRE 01-236 5568. cc 01-741 9999. Seats from any Keith Prowse. No booking fee. Group Sales 01-930 6123. Eves 7.30. Thur and Sat Mats 3.00. No perf Dec 24 & 25.
LOU HIRSCH CLIVE MANTLE and SUSAN PENHALIGON
in
OF MICE AND MEN
STEINBECK'S timeless masterpiece

NATIONAL THEATRE South Bank The building will be closed Dec 24/25
NATIONAL THEATRE COMPANY
SEE SEPARATE ENTRIES UNDER OLIVIER / LYTTELTON / COTTESLOE
Excellent cheap seats day of perf all 3 theatres from 10am.
Free Xmas foyer entertainment of all kinds daily.
RESTAURANT (928 2033). CHEAP, EASY CAR PARK. TOURS OF THE BUILDING (including backstage) £1.75. Inf. 633 0880.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane, WC2 01-405 0072 cc 01-404 4079. Eves 7.45. Tue & Sat 3.0 & 7.45.
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/T. S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Group Bookings 01-405 1567 or 01-930 6123. (Apply daily to Box Office for returns.)
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT.
Bars open at 6.45pm.
Now booking to June 1 1985 – alternative cc bookings 379 6131. Postal applications now being accepted for June 3-Aug 31 1985.
THE LONGER YOU WAIT THE LONGER YOU'LL WAIT
No perfs Dec 24/25 Mats.
Mats Dec 27/28/29/31 at 3pm.
No mat Jan 1.

OLD VIC 928 7616 CC 261 1821.
LAST 2 PERFS today 4.0 & 7.45.
GLENDA JACKSON
ROBERT EDDISON GEORGINA HALE
GERARD MURPHY JOYCE REDMAN
TIM WOODWARD
in
PHEDRA
Translated by ROBERT DAVID MACDONALD
Directed and designed by PHILIP PROWSE
"A TRULY OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION" F.T.
"GLENDA JACKSON WONDERFULLY IMPRESSIVE" D.Tel.
MUST END TONIGHT!!!

OLD VIC 928 7616 CC 261 1821
Previews from 26 December
ROY DOTRICE in
GREAT EXPECTATIONS
adapted and directed by PETER COE
BOXING DAY BONANZA!!!
MATINEE ALL SEATS £3.50
EVENING ALL SEATS £5.00

OLIVIER 928 2252 CC 928 5933 'S' (National Theatre's open stage). Today 2.00 (low price mat) & 7.15, Dec 26 at 7.15, then Dec 31 to Jan 2 A LITTLE HOTEL ON THE SIDE Feydeau's farce translated by John Mortimer. (The building will be closed Dec 24/25).

PALACE THEATRE 437 6834 cc 437 8327/379 6433. Group Sales Box Office 930 6123
THE MOST AWARD WINNING MUSICAL OF 1984
GALINA PANOVA
HONOR BLACKMAN JOHN BENNETT
TIM FLAVIN
in
RODGERS AND HART'S
ON YOUR TOES
with SIOBHAN McCARTHY and NICHOLAS JOHNSON
On Wednesday Evening & Saturday Matinee the leading role will be played by DOREEN WELLS
"'ON YOUR TOES' contains more joy than anything else on the London stage" Guardian. "One of the biggest theatrical firecrackers in London" Sunday Times.
"SHEER BLISS" Daily Telegraph.
Eves 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 2.30
NB No perf Dec 24/25
Extra Mat Wed 26 Dec at 2.30
Pre-theatre Buffet from 6.45pm

PALACE THEATRE BAR, Cambridge Circus. 437 6834.
LUNCHTIME
FOOD, MUSIC, WINE & ART
Today at 1pm: Carla Mendonsa singer/pianist. Admission free. Fully licensed. 11-3 Pub prices.

PHOENIX THEATRE 240 9661 CC 836 2294/379 6433. Grp Sales 930 6123. Mon-Thur 7.45 Fri/Sat 5.30 & 8.30
GRIFF RHYS JONES
GWEN TAYLOR in
TRUMPETS & RASPBERRIES
A New Comedy by DARIO FO
"INSPIRED clowning" S. Tel.
"INSPIRED nonsense" Fin Times. "INSPIRED inventions" D Mail. "INSPIRED fun" Standard.
"VENGEFULLY ELEGANT"! S Times
No perfs Dec 24/25

PICCADILLY 437 4506 cc 379 6565/741 9999/379 6433. Group Sales 930 6123/836 3962. Eves 8.00. Fri and Sat 6.0 and 8.45.
Paul Jones
Kiki Dee Brian Protheroe
Gary Holton
Carlene Carter Julian Littman
PUMP BOYS & DINETTES
"IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO HAVE A GOOD TIME" BBC.
"Non-stop action. It's just one heck of a lot of fun!" Daily Mirror.
HOT NEW MUSICAL
SPECIAL OFFER FOR 6.00 PERF FRIDAYS. Present this at box office on Friday and get 2 tickets for the price of one! (Subject to availability). No perfs Dec 24/25. Dec 26/27/28 at 4.00 & 8.00.

PRINCE EDWARD. Tel 01-437 6877 S
Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's
EVITA
THE GIANT OF MUSICALS
Dir. by Hal Prince. Evgs. 8.0. Mats Thurs & Sat at 3.0. C.C. Hotline 439 8499. 379 6433. 631 1101. 741 9999. Group Sales 930 6123. Extra Mat Dec 26 at 3.0.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE 01-930 8681/2 cc Hotline 01-930 0844/5/6 Group sales 930 6123
RUSS ABBOT
SHEILA WHITE
in
LITTLE ME
"AMONG THE GREAT BLOCK-BUSTING MUSICALS OF OUR TIME ... GLORIOUS SPOOF." D.Mail. "THE FUNNIEST MUSICAL NEW YORK EVER SENT US ... EXUBERANT SCORE, SPARKING PRECISION OF MR FOSSE'S DANCE STYLE" D. Tel. "POSITIVELY SPARKLES" Sun Exp. "DELIGHTFUL, BUBBLING ENTERTAINMENT" Scotsman. "SPLENDID" D. Mirror.
Evgs 7.30. Mats Thurs & Sats at 3.00. Special rates for OAPs/students/children (at certain performances). Reduced price Thurs Mats. Extra Mat Dec 26 at 3.0.

QUEENS THEATRE 01-734 1166 01-734 0261 01-734 0120 01-439 3849 01-439 4031 Group Sales 01-930 6123
"ONE OF THE MOST INTELLIGENTLY ENTERTAINING EVENINGS TO BE FOUND IN THE WEST END" Standard
PAUL EDDINGTON
"A DELICIOUSLY FUNNY PORTRAIT" Times
in Alan Bennett's Classic Comedy
40 YEARS ON
Directed by Patrick Garland
"THE QUEENS THEATRE WILL NOT HAVE SEEN THE LAST OF THIS MOST GLORIOUSLY FUNNY PLAY FOR MANY A LONG DAY." D. Mail. "ONE OF THE BEST AND MOST ORIGINAL ENGLISH COMEDIES IN THE LAST FIFTY YEARS" Sunday Times
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed 3.0. Sat 5.0 & 8.15. Closed Xmas eve. Extra perf Thurs Dec 27 at 3.00.

RAYMOND REVUEBAR CC 734 1593. Mon-Sat 7 pm, 9 pm, 11 pm. Paul Raymond presents THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA. Now! More new acts. More new thrills. More new sensations. The world's centre of erotic entertainment. 27th great year.

ROYAL COURT S cc 730 1745. EDWARD BOND SEASON NOW BOOKING until 9 Feb. SAVED at 8pm. THE POPE'S WEDDING, in Rep from Jan 4. "Throat Grabbing, roar ... chilling ... expertly performed" FT.

SADLER'S WELLS 278 8916
Jan 15 - Feb 9 Booking now.
THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS
A new Musical starring TERRY SCOTT: 'Toad'
PATRICK CARGILL: 'Ratty'
DONALD HEWLETT: 'Badger'
MELVYN HAYES: 'Mole'

SAVOY. Box Office 01-836 8888 Credit Cards 01-379 6219/836 0479 Evgs 7.45, Wed 3.00, Sat 5.00 & 8.30. Closed Christmas Eve. Extra perf Thursday, Dec 27 at 3.0.
THE AWARD WINNING WEST END & BROADWAY COMEDY HIT
MICHAEL MEDWIN
JOSEPHINE TEWSON HUGH PADDICK
ROLAND CURRAM
DILYS WATLING PHILIP BIRD
NOISES OFF
Directed by Michael Blakemore
"After two years Michael Frayn's comedy is still wildly funny" Times.
OVER 1,000 PERFORMANCES

SHAFTESBURY 379 5399 CC 741 9999. Grp Sales 930 6123. Evgs 8.00. Sat 5.30 & 8.30. Wed Mat 3.0. No Perf Dec 24, 25. Dec 26 at 3.0 & 8.0.
THEATRE OF COMEDY COMPANY
DONALD SINDEN
"A Grand Master" Std
MICHAEL WILLIAMS
"Truly Hilarious" Std.
BARBARA MURRAY
and LIONEL JEFFRIES in
TWO INTO ONE
Written & Directed by RAY COONEY
"The most hilarious production yet mounted by Mr Cooney's Theatre of Comedy" F.T.
"CLASSIC ... FIRST RATE FARCE" Gdn.

ST MARTINS. 836 1443. Special cc no 01-379 6433. Evgs 8.0. Tues 2.45. Sats 5.0 & 8.0
No perf Dec 25. Dec 26 perfs 5.00 & 8.00
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP
33rd YEAR
SORRY No reduced prices from any source but seats bookable from £3.50.

STRAND WC2 01-836 2660/4143/5190 7.30, Wed 2.30, Sat 5 & 8.30. Closed Christmas Eve. Extra Perf Thursday, December 27 at 2.30.
MICHAEL PENNINGTON LUCY GUTTERIDGE
in the 3rd year OF TOM STOPPARD'S
THE REAL THING
"I BELIEVE THAT 'THE REAL THING' WILL COME TO BE SEEN AS ONE OF THE BEST ENGLISH PLAYS OF THIS CENTURY" J. Peter, S Times
Directed by PETER WOOD

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON. Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789) 295623. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in HAMLET today 1.30 "... a Hamlet that sears the memory" D Mail. LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST, tonight, Wed 7.30, Thur 1.30 "... a treat" The Times. No performances on 24th & 25th December. For special meal/theatre deals ring 0789 67262.

TRICYCLE 328 8626. Bob Carlton's RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET. Eves 8. Mats: Sats & Dec 27 & 28 at 4pm. Theatre closed Dec 24-26.

VAUDEVILLE 01-836 9987/836 5645 Eves 7.45, Wed 2.30, Sat 5.0, 8.30. Closed Christmas Eve. Extra Perf Thursday, Dec 27 at 2.30.
PLAY OF THE YEAR
LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARD
POLLY ADAMS CLIVE FRANCIS
JAN WATERS GLYN GRAIN
MICHAEL FRAYN'S NEW PLAY
BENEFACTORS
Directed by MICHAEL BLAKEMORE.
"BEST NEW PLAY IN TOWN" Punch.

VICTORIA PALACE 01-834 1317. Evgs 7.30, Matinees Wed & Sat 2.45. Prevs March 2-13 OPENS MARCH 14
MICHAEL CRAWFORD in BARNUM
BOX OFFICE OPEN 9am-9pm

WESTMINSTER Palace St W1 01-834 0283/4. CC 01-741 9999. 01-379 6433. 01-631 1101.
THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE.
Twice Daily. Tickets from £3.50. Dec 24 perf 2.30 only. No perf Dec 25.

WYNDHAM'S S 836 3028 CC 379 6565/379 6433. Grps 930 6123/836 3962. Evgs 8.0, Wed Mats 3.0, Sats 5.0 & 8.15.
SUE TOWNSEND'S
THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE
AGED 13¾
Music & Lyrics by KEN HOWARD & ALAN BLAIKLEY
No perfs Dec 24/25. Extra Mat Dec 27 at 3.0

YOUNG VIC 928 6363. Until 19 Jan JACK AND THE BEANSTALK & THE WILD, WILD WEST. Days & Eves. "The funniest, paciest, swingingest show in town" City Limits "The children lapped it up" D. Tel.

CINEMAS

ACADEMY 1. 437 2981. The Tavianis' KAOS (15). Sep perfs. Wkdys 2.30, 7.25. Suns 3.40, 7.25. Cinema closed 24-26 Dec.

ACADEMY 2. 437 5129. Satyajit Ray's THE HOME AND THE WORLD (U). Daily at 3.10, 5.45, 8.25. Cinema closed 24-26 Dec.

ACADEMY 3. 437 8819. Marcel Carné's LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS (PG). Film at 4.10, 7.30. Cinema closed 24 – 26 Dec.

BARBICAN CINEMA. 01-628 8795. Student reducts on all perfs. TODAY Children's Cinema Club (instant Membership. 11.00/2.30 Christmas Party & Cartoons. TON'T 6.00/8.00 GHOSTBUSTERS (PG). Barbican Centre Closed Dec 24 & 25.

CAMDEN PLAZA 485 2443 (opp. Camden Town Tube). Eric Rohmer's FULL MOON IN PARIS (15). Film at 2.05, 4.15, 6.30, 8.50. Closed 24 & 25 Dec.

CHELSEA CINEMA 351 3742 Kings Road (Nearest Tube Sloane Sq). ERIC ROHMER'S FULL MOON IN PARIS (15). Film at 2.05, 4.15, 6.30, 8.50 Advance Booking for last perf. only Access/Visa. Closed 24 & 25 Dec.

CURZON, Curzon St. W1. 499 3737. Christopher Reeve, Vanessa Redgrave in The Merchant Ivory Production of THE BOSTONIANS (PG) "Superbly made and acted" D Tel. film at 1.15 (not Sun), 3.30, 6.00 & 8.40. Closed Dec 24/25.

GATE BLOOMSBURY 1 & 2 837 8402/1177. Russell Sq. Tube. 1: 1984 (15) 2.30, 4.40, 6.50, 9.00. Cinema 2: Repertory. Lic'd Bar. Access/Visa.
GATE NOTTING HILL 221 0220/727 5750. LE BAL (PG) 4.40, 6.50, 9.00. LN. 11.15pm CANTERBURY TALES (18). DECAMERON (18).

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (930 5252) THE LAST STARFIGHTER (PG). Sep progs Daily 1.00, 3.35, 6.10, 8.50. Late Night show Fri & Sat 11.45pm. Advance Booking for all performances. Telephone bookings with Access and Visa welcome.

LUMIERE CINEMA 836 0691. St Martin's Lane (Nearest Tube Leicester Sq). ETTORE SCOLA'S LE BAL (PG). Film at 1.45, 4.00, 6.20, 8.40. Advance Booking for 6.20 & 8.40 Perfs only. Closed 24 & 25 Dec.

MINEMA KNIGHTSBRIDGE 235 4225. Closed for refurbishment. Re-opens Jan 10, with Les Chiens.

ODEON HAYMARKET (930 2738). A PRIVATE FUNCTION (15) Sep progs Dly 2.15, 6.15, 8.45. Late Night Show Fri & Sat 11.15pm. All seats bookable in Advance. Access and Visa telephone bookings welcome. "The comedy of the year" DAILY MAIL.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (930 6111) Info. 930 4250/4259. GHOSTBUSTERS (PG) in 70mm Sep progs Doors open daily 1.45, 4.55, 8.00. Late shows Fri & Sats Doors 11.15pm. 8.00 Perf and Late shows Bookable. Access and Visa phone bookings welcome. Credit Hot Line 839 1929. 24 hour service. £2.00 seats Monday all perfs.

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (723 2011) CARAVAN OF COURAGE (U) Sep. progs. Doors open Dly 1.45, 4.45, 7.45. Reduced prices for under 16's.

PRINCE CHARLES Leic. Sq. 437 8181. THE WOMAN IN RED (15) in Dolby Stereo. Progs 2.30, 4.15, 6.25, 8.35. Lte show Fri & Sat 11.15 All Seats £2.50 Monday. Lic'd Bar.

SCREEN ON BAKER ST. Tel: 935 2772. (1) CAL (15) 2.20, 4.30, 6.45, 9.00. (2) PARIS TEXAS (15). 2.30, 5.30, 8.30. Fri/Sat 11.30. Lic bar. Tickets bookable.

SCREEN ON ISLINGTON GREEN. 226 3520 (Angel tube) THE KILLING FIELDS (15) 2.30, 5.15, 8.15. Fri/Sat 11.15, Evng perf bookable in advance. In Dolby stereo.

SCREEN ON THE HILL 435 3366. (opp Belsize Pk tube). The new version of the classic METROPOLIS (PG). 3.25, 5.15, 7.15, 9.15. Lic bar. Seats bookable. In Dolby stereo.

ART GALLERIES

BANKSIDE GALLERY CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION Wide variety of Watercolours, Prints and Drawings FOR SALE by Members of the Royal Water-Colour Society and The Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers. Pictures can be taken away at time of purchase. 11th-23rd Dec Mon-Sat 10-5. Sun 2-5. 17th-20th Dec extended opening until 7pm. 48 Hopton Street, Blackfriars, London SW1. Tel: 01-928 7521.

BARBICAN ART GALLERY Barbican Centre EC2 (01-638 4141) JAMES TISSOT plus THE CITY'S PICTURES. Until 20 January. Admission: £1.50 and 75p; Reduced rates for pre-booked parties. Open Tues to Sat. 10am to 7pm. Sun & B Hols. 12 to 6pm; closed Mon, except B Hols. Closed 24, 25 & 31 Dec.

BETHNAL GREEN Museum of Childhood. Cambridge Heath Road. E2. Tel. 01-980 2415. SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS & THE NUTCRACKER PRINCE. Until 20 Jan. Adm free. Wkdys 10-6, Suns 2.30-6. Closed Fridays and 24-26 Dec inc & 1 Jan.

BRITISH LIBRARY/British Museum. Great Russell Street. WC1: Anglo-Saxon Art 966-1066: weekdays 10-5, Sunday 2.30-6; admission £2.00; recorded info 01-580 1788. Closed 24, 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.

CHRISTOPHER WOOD GALLERY Christmas Exhibition. Pictures from £100. 15 Motcomb St. London SW1. 01-235 9141.

CHRISTIE'S CONTEMPORARY ART. Prints for Christmas mixed exhibition of etchings, lithographs, & screen prints from £40 plus a wide selection of modern masters – Hockney, Miro, Moore etc. Gallery open 9.30-5.30 Mon-Fri, 10.00-1.00 Sat. 8 Dover St. London W1. 01-499 6701.

FINE ART SOCIETY, 148 New Bond St. London W1. 01 629 5116 – EILEEN HOGAN Women in the Navy

FREELAND GALLERY, 18 Albemarle St. W1. 493 5280 present a SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SHOW. Works by Rodin, Bourdelle, Robinson, Piazzotta, Gerald Laing, Georges Wolf, Alfredo Pina, Jean Marcel & Salomkine. From Nov. 15th through Dec. 10-5 & Sat 10-1.

HAYWARD GALLERY (Arts Council) South Bank, London SE1. HENRI MATISSE: Sculptures & Drawings. Closes 6 Jan. Mon-Wed 10-8, Thursday-Sat 10-6, Sun 12-6. Adm £2; £1 concessionary rate and all day Mon, Tues and Wed 6-8. Recorded info 01-261 0127.

NATIONAL GALLERY, Trafalgar Sq, London WC2. CHRISTMAS EVENTS: Special children's exhibition, quiz and talks. Ring 01-839 3321 for details. (Recorded info 01-831 3526.) Wkdys 10-6, Suns 2-6. Adm free. Closed 24, 25, 26 Dec and 1 Jan.

PARKIN GALLERY, 11 Motcomb St, SW1. 01 235 8144. Louis Wain's Cats of fame and promise until 4 Jan.

PICCADILLY GALLERY 16 Cork St, W1. 629 2875. 20th CENTURY BRITISH & CONTINENTAL DRAWINGS & WATERCOLOURS 28 Nov-11 Jan. Mon-Fri, 10-5.30, Sats 10-12.30.

TATE GALLERY, Millbank SW1. GEORGE STUBBS. Until 6 Jan. Adm. £2. Wkdys 10–5.50. (Tues 5.50–7.50 £1) Suns 2–5.50. Recorded info. 01-821 7128. Closed 24, 25, 26 Dec. and 1 Jan.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM, S Kensington. DISCOVERY OF THE LAKE DISTRICT Adm free. JOHN FRENCH FASHION PHOTOGRAPHER. Adm £1. Library closed until further notice. Wkdys 10-5.30. Suns 2.30-5.30. Closed Fridays & 24-26 Dec inc & 1 Jan. Recorded info 01-581 4894

CREME DE LA CREME

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LEGAL NOTICES

INFORMATION WANTED TO SETTLE AN ESTATE
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THE WEEK

THEATRE

Mystery cycle in medieval style

This Christmas and New Year the National Theatre's presentation of the English medieval mystery plays, which has so far been confined to *The Nativity* and *The Passion*, is completed with a new production of *Doomsday* which takes the story from the Resurrection to the Last Judgement.

It will not last quite as long as the traditional 17 hours from dawn to dusk, but on January 19 all three plays will be performed at the Cottesloe Theatre, and it is the hope of Bill Bryden, the director, that they will be presented together often.

To him they represent simply "the greatest story ever told – in middle English. They are not as sophisticated as Greek drama but are the great English pre-Shakesperian plays".

The three plays are complete in themselves – *The Nativity* covering the time from the creation to the birth of Christ, and *The Passion* taking the story from John the Baptist to the crucifixion – but Bryden hopes that people will wish to see them all in sequence.

The National's version, by Tony Harrison, is derived mostly from the York and Wakefield cycles, with bits from the Chester and Coventry cycles. The plays were written and performed by working men: in the York cycle, for example, the bakers created the Last Supper and nailmakers the Crucifixion.

They were helped by dramatic poets, whose names are not known. One is called the York realist and another the Wakefield master, author of the second shepherd's play featuring Mak the Sheepstealer.

Bryden's production tries to emulate the atmosphere of their medieval performances, where the whole town turned out onto the streets to watch the pageant. So they are given promenade performances at the Cottesloe; the seats have been taken up, and the audience can sit on the floor, wander about or watch from the balcony above.

In the plays the characters are played by modern "craftsmen". The Angel Gabriel is played by a fireman, a boilermaker plays Abraham, a carpenter appropriately takes the part of Joseph, and God is a miner.

That last interpretation has no specially topical relevance; he was cast as a miner in earlier productions of the plays. (The NCB provided the miners' helmets for this production).

Past experience has shown that the audience and cast mingle easily. "The actors treat them very gently, and they always make way when a path is needed", Bryden says.

He wants families to come to the shows, but adds that *The Nativity* is the most suitable for children, and emphasizes the importance of seeing the three parts in correct sequence.

Christopher Warman

The Mysteries, National Theatre (928 2252). Previews of *The Nativity* tonight and Wed at 7.30pm.

Nobby Clark



Cherished cradle: Dave Hill and Brenda Blethyn in the National Theatre production of The Nativity, a medieval mystery play

In Preview

GREAT EXPECTATIONS: Peter Coe directs his adaptation of Charles Dickens's novel, in a joint production by the Churchill Theatre Bromley and Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Cast includes Ian McCurrach as Pip, Roy Dotrice as Magwitch, Sheila Burrell as Miss Havisham.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, London SE1 (928 7616). Previews from Wed at 7.30pm; Thurs, Fri, Dec 29, 31, Jan 1 at 7.30pm; opens Jan 2 at 7pm. Until Feb 2, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.45pm; matinées Wed and Sat at 2.30pm.

Openings

LIVES OF THE GREAT COMPOSERS: Comedian John Sessions in his latest one-man show, which may or may not include insights into the hitherto secret lives of Schumann, Schubert, Shostakovich and others. Five nights only.
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, London W6 (748 3354). Opens Thurs at 8pm; Press night Fri at 7pm; Dec 29, 30 at 8pm; *New Year's Eve Party* Dec 31 at 9pm.

Selected

FORTY YEARS ON
Queen's Theatre (734 1166). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinées Wed at 3pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25, but extra matinée Dec 27 at 3pm
Transferred from Chichester, Alan Bennett's witty and nostalgic pageant of Britain from the 1900s to the 1960s, rich in wickedly funny parodies and presented as a boys' public school play.

A LITTLE HOTEL ON THE SIDE
Olivier (928 2252). Today at 2pm and 7.15pm, Wed at 7.15pm. In repertory
Uproarious and (thanks to John Mortimer's translation) surprisingly witty version of the Feydeau farce better known as *Hotel Paradiso*, with Graeme Garden as a spry bourgeois adulterer and Deborah Norton as a marital dragon.

ON YOUR TOES
Palace (437 6834). Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinées Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25, but extra matinée Dec 26 at 2.30pm
Galina Panova (with Doreen Wells taking over on Wed evenings and Sat matinées) has the lead in this appealing revival of the 1936 Rodgers and Hart musical. Staged by the co-writer and original director, George Abbot, aged 96.

THE WAY OF THE WORLD
Haymarket (930 9832). Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinées Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 3pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25, but extra matinée Dec 27 at 2.30pm
Maggie Smith at her scintillating best heads a starry cast (with John Moffatt and Joan Plowright especially delightful) in William Gaskill's beautifully staged, though rather bland, production of Congreve's masterpiece.

WEST SIDE STORY
Her Majesty's (930 6606). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 4.45 and 8pm; matinées Wed at 2.30pm. No perf Dec 25
Bernstein's classic 1958 musical, scrupulously and energetically revived with Jerome Robbins's original choreography.

WILD HONEY
Lyttelton (928 2252). Today at 2.30 and 7.45pm, Wed-Fri at 7.45pm. In repertory
Last staged as *Platonov*, Chekhov's delicate and quirky early comedy emerges as a lovable little masterpiece in its own right, thanks to Michael Frayn's imaginative translation and Christopher Morahan's production with the volatile Ian McKellen at its centre.

Out of Town

BRISTOL: Old Vic, Theatre Royal, King Street (0272 24388). Peter Pan by J. M. Barrie. Until Feb 9, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm; matinées at 3pm (days vary). No perfs Dec 24, 25, Jan 21, 28, 29, Feb 4, 5. From Jan 14 Mon-Sat at 7pm; matinées at 3pm (days vary)

New Vic (0272 24388). Tomfoolery by Robin Ray and Cameron Mackintosh. Until Feb 9, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm, Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm; matinées Dec 26, Jan 1, at 3pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25, Feb 4
Comedy revue, derived from the writings of US satirist Tom Lehrer.

LEICESTER: Haymarket, Belgrave Gate (0533 539 797). Me and My Girl by Noel Gay. Until Jan 26, Mon, Tues, Thurs at 7.30pm; Wed, Fri, Sat at 8pm; matinées Wed and Sat at 4.30pm, also on Dec 27, 28 at 4.30pm
The first professional production for 35 years of a musical which had a record-breaking run from 1937, and has since become an amateur company classic.

LIVERPOOL: Everyman, Hope Street (051 709 4776). From a Jack to a King by Bob Carlton. Until Jan 5, Tues-Sat at 8pm; matinées vary.
From the author of *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, another blend of fantasy, Shakespeare (*Macbeth*) and 1950s and '60s rock'n'roll.

LIVERPOOL: Playhouse, Williamson Square (051 709 8363). Hindle Wakes by Stanley Houghton. Until Jan 19, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; matinées Sat at 4pm
A 1911 comedy in which a romantic fling leads to pressure "to do the decent thing".

MANCHESTER: Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (061 833 9833). The Admirable Crichton by J. M. Barrie. Until Jan 19, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm, Wed-Sat at 8pm; matinées Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm. No perfs Dec 24, 25, no matinée Dec 26
Comedy of the English class system. With Hugh Quarshie in the title role as the butler.

OXFORD: Playhouse (0865 247133). Way Upstream by Alan Ayckbourn. Until Jan 12, Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 8.15pm; matinées Sat at 4pm (4.30pm Dec 29, Jan 5). No perf Dec 25
New production (which will tour) of the bitter comedy set on a cabin cruiser.
The Wind in the Willows. Until Jan 5. Mon-Fri at 2.30pm. Sat at 11am and 2pm. No perf Dec. 25
Adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's book, for 6-11-year-olds.

STRATFORD: Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 295623). Love's Labour's Lost. Today and Wed at 7.30pm, Thurs at 1.30pm. In repertory
Barry Kyle directs Edward Petherbridge, Josette Simon, Roger Rees, Kenneth Branagh.
Hamlet. Today at 1.30pm, Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory
Roger Rees, Brian Blessed, Virginia McKenna, Frances Barber, directed by Ron Daniels.
The Merchant of Venice. Thurs at 7.30pm. In repertory
Ilan McDiarmid, Frances Tomelty, directed by John Caird.
Henry V. Today and Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory
Kenneth Branagh, Brian Blessed, Patricia Routledge.
The Other Place (0789 295623). The Desert Air by Nicholas Wright. Today and Wed at 7.30pm. In repertory
A "comedy about war and anger" set in Cairo, 1942.
The Party by Trevor Griffiths. Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory
Left-wing radicals in London in 1968 debate the possibility of a British insurrection.
Camille by Pam Gems. Thurs at 7.30pm. In repertory
A retelling of the Alexandre Dumas *La Dame aux Camélias*.

GALLERIES

Selected

LANDSCAPE, MEMORY AND DESIRE
Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (402 6057). Today, tomorrow, Thurs, Fri, Dec 29-31 and Jan 2-20, daily 10am-4pm.
Works by six painters all schooled in abstraction who have since moved on to more natural expressionism, with landscape as a connecting theme.

CHINESE ORNAMENT: THE LOTUS AND THE DRAGON
British Museum, London WC1 (636 1555). Today, Tomorrow, Thurs, Fri, Dec 29-31 and Jan 2-May 5, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-6pm
Fascinating journey through decorative motifs, from ancient Egypt and classical Greece to China. Lotus patterns and acanthus scrolls were appropriated by Chinese porcelain painters to wonderful effect.

WILLIAM MORRIS
Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield (0742 734781). Today, tomorrow, Thurs, Fri and Dec 29-Jan 6, Mon-Sat 10am-8pm, Sun 2-5pm
Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Morris's birth, the exhibition concentrates on his designs for carpets, embroideries, furniture, tapestries, stained glass and also his wallpaper and fabrics.

Gem of a jar: From 14th-century China, at the British Museum

LOOK! PEOPLE
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (930 1552). Today, tomorrow, Thurs, Fri, Dec 29-31 and Jan 2-13, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm
An entertaining collection of contemporary portraits; includes timely, sombre images of Yorkshire miners by Michael Martin, and Clive Barker's bronzes of Francis Bacon.

Photography

INTERFERENCE
Hamiltons, 13 Carlos Place, London W1 (499 9493). Thurs-Jan 9, daily, 10am-6pm. Closed Jan 1
Polaroid photography from Nick Rhodes, of the pop group Duran Duran. Very colourful and vaguely reminiscent of computer-enhanced space shots.

BALLET PHOTOGRAPHS
Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (929 3641). Until Jan 13, daily 10am-10pm
Sensitive ballet pictures by John Austin, a young photographer who is obviously a talent worth watching.

HENRY CUTHBERT
Manchester Studies Archive, Cavendish House, Cavendish Street, Manchester (061 288 6171). Until Jan 25, Mon-Thurs 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-5pm
Street scenes, celebrations and day-to-day life in the Urmston district of Manchester, recorded by Henry Cuthbert, a butcher and keen amateur photographer.

SRI LANKA
Terrace Entrance Foyer, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (928 2252). Until Jan 25, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm
Tim Page made his reputation with photographs taken during the Vietnam war. This show presents a more gentle side of his nature.

DANCE

FESTIVAL BALLET
Festival Hall (928 3191). Boxing day at 7.30pm, then Mon-Sat at 3 and 7.30pm until Jan 5
Tchaikovsky's music and the liveliness of the company make this production of *The Nutcracker* a sure-fire hit even though not everyone is enthusiastic about Ronald Hynd's production.

ROYAL BALLET
Covent Garden (240 1066). Today at 1.30pm, Boxing day at 8pm, Thurs and Friday at 7.30pm; matinée Thurs at 2.30pm
Peter Wright's new production of *The Nutcracker* continues with the debuts of Bryony Brind and Jonathan Cope in the leads (Wed), followed by Karen Paisey and Mark Silver (Thurs matinée). There are also further performances by Lesley Collier and Anthony Dowell (tonight), Fiona Chadwick and Wayne Eagling (Thurs eve), Ravenna Tucker and Jay Jolley (Fri). Gennadi Rozhdestvensky conducts.

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET
Sadler's Wells (278 8916). Until Jan 5. Mon-Sat (except Dec 24, 25) at 7.30pm, matinées Sat and Dec 26 at 2.30pm
Two popular favourites provide this week's programmes. *Coppélia* runs until Thurs, with different casts at every performance. Fri brings *La Fille mal gardée* with Marion Tait, Roland Price.

FILMS

Opulent artistry in a feast for the eye

Provided one isn't suffering from a seasonal surfeit of families and bright colours, *The Swing* might be just the answer for those slack days after Christmas.

The German director, Percy Adlon, takes us on a celebratory tour of Munich, some hundred years ago; we revel in the sights, sounds and values of an opulent, bygone world. Waltz music by Johann Strauss fills the ear; the leisurely perambulating camera of Jürgen Martin (a regular Adlon collaborator) captures the beauty of ornate mansions and city landscapes with matching grace.

The story tells of the Lautenschlag family, constantly battling with perilous finances and their own personalities. They argue, they eat, they go to balls, concerts and make merry in various odd ways – gathered giggling round a table, for instance, they search for the sock with the biggest hole.

The film's epic sweep marks quite a change for Adlon, best-known in Britain for his first feature *Celeste* (1981), a crisp and delicate drama about the relationship between Proust and his housekeeper. *Five Last Days* (1982) examined the last hours of a student activist in a Gestapo prison from a similarly intimate perspective. *The Swing* draws on an autobiographical novel of 1934 by Annette Kolb, the subject of one of Adlon's Earlier television documentaries. Before making documentaries, Adlon spent the 1960s working in radio on literary programmes and plays (he originallly trained as a actor). "On radio", he once said, "I was learning to follow the music of literature, and I got my eye for filming in radio, learning to see in my mind the pictures of the text."



Family fun: Anja Jaenicke (left), Joachims Bernhard (centre) and Lena Stolze in The Swing

Such a background places Adlon some distance away from compatriots like Fassbinder, Herzog and Wenders. "I was never influenced by movies", Adlon admitted in the same interview; "I am not a cineaste, I am a *Künstler* – I see my films as art work".

The Swing, however, shows Adlon unbending: an art work it might be, but it is one determined to delight and entertain.

Geoff Brown

The Swing (PG) opens in London on Boxing Day for a three-week run at the Hampstead Everyman (01-435 1525).

Openings

KINGS AND DESPERATE MEN (17): Unusual Canadian thriller about a radio talk-show host (Patrick McGoohan) held hostage by a radical teacher determined to reopen a controversial manslaughter case. Co-starring Alexis Kanner, who also directs and produces.
From Fri at the Classic Oxford Street (636 0310) and ABC Bayswater (229 5620).

Selected

GHOSTBUSTERS (PG)
Odeon Leicester Square (930 6111)
No point looking for finesse in this supernatural spoof from Bill Murray, Dan Ackroyd, Harold Ramis and directed Ivan Reitman; though for a film costing some $30m, one expects far better special effects. A huge box office success, none the less.

GREMLINS (15)
Warner West End (439 0791)
Executive producer Steven Spielberg returns to E.T. territory with the artful story of small, furry, but not entirely lovable creatures running amok in a cosy little town. Directed by Joe Dante *(The Howling)* with a gloating relish for nightmare horror.

DUNE (PG)
Empire, Leicester Square (437 1234)
David Lynch's expensive, impersonal version of Frank Herbert's science fiction classic about war and intrigue on a desert planet; top-heavy with plots, but visually immaculate. With Kyle MacLachlan, Francesca Annis, and Sting.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Covent Garden, London WC2 (240 1066)
This evening at 7pm and Boxing Day at 1.30 pm brings the Royal Opera's traditional Christmas party, *Fledermaus*. This year it has a strong cast, including Marie McLaughlin as Adèle, Barbara Daniels as Rosalinde, Dennis O'Neill as Alfred and Thomas Allen as Von Eisenstein. The conductor is the Viennese operetta specialist, Julius Rudel.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London, WC1 (836 3161)
The new one-off production of Tchaikovsky's *Mazeppa*, not seen in England since 1888, is the main attraction this week. Performances flank Christmas, playing tonight and Dec 29, both at 7pm. When the run is over, on Jan 10, the production will not be revived. Malcolm Donnelly takes the title role. One last performance of *Cosi fan tutte* on Fri at 7pm.

OPERA NORTH
Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0532 440971/459351)
Tonight and Fri at 7.15pm, and Sat 29 at 2.30 pm, the highly acclaimed production of *The Gondoliers*, by Christopher Renshaw, first seen this summer at New Sadler's Wells Opera. Its cast of young singers and G & S veterans is led by Gillian Sullivan and Derek Hammond-Stroud. On Thurs, Opera North's new *Magic Flute*, directed by Graham Vick, (7.15pm).

FIGARO IN CROYDON
Croydon Warehouse Theatre, 62 Dingwall Road, Croydon (680 4060)
Tony Britten and Nicholas Broadhurst, of the National Theatre's *Guys and Dolls*, have set up a workshop to explore the effects of applying the thinking and techniques of contemporary theatre to Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. The results can be seen tonight. Thurs and Fri at 7.30pm.

CONCERTS

CAROL BUSKERS
Today, 2.30pm, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (589 8212, credit cards 589 9465)
A traditional family carol concert is given by the Cambridge Buskers, the Royal Choral Society and John Birch (organ) with the Fanfare Trumpeters of the Royal Marines School of Music. There is a repeat performance at 7.30pm.

CHRISTMAS CORELLI I
Today, 7.30pm, St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (222 1061)
The Vivaldi Concertante and Choir weigh in with Corelli's Christmas Concerto Op 6 No 8, excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* and *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

CHRISTMAS GLORY
Today, 7.30pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (628 8795, credit cards 638 8891)
Under the title "The Glory of Christmas" the London Concert Orchestra and London Chorale conducted by David Coleman offer Schubert's *Ave Maria*, Gounod's *Ave Maria*, Clark's Trumpet Voluntary, Purcell's Trumpet Tune, Franck's *Panis Angelicus* and the Pastoral Symphony from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*.

CHRISTMAS CORELLI II
Today, 7.30pm, Royal Northern College of Music, 124 Oxford Road, Manchester (061-273 4504)
Corelli's Christmas Concerto Op 6 No 8 is this time heard from the Manchester Camerata under Nicholas Kraemer, along with Bach's Suite No 3, an unspecified Handel concerto grosso and Telemann's exciting D major Trumpet Concerto (Michael Laird, soloist).

NATIONAL CHILDREN
Today, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Belvedere Road, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3191, credit cards 928 8800)
Conducted by Vivien Price, the National Children's Orchestra undertakes Britten's Simple Symphony and, more ambitiously, Berlioz's Overture *Carnaval Romain*, Rimsky-Korsakov's Introduction and Bridal Procession from *Le Coq d'Or* and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

ALL BEETHOVEN
Wed, 7.30pm, Barbican Centre
The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is heard in Beethoven's Overture *Coriolanus* and Symphony No 3, the "Eroica". In between, Peter Donohoe is soloist in Piano Concerto No 5, the "Emperor". Lionel Friend conducts.

JUDD, SHELLEY
Thurs, 8pm, Barbican Centre
The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by James Judd in Rossini's Overture *Barber of Seville*, Grieg's *Peer Gynt* Suite No 1, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 6, the "Pathétique". In Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 the soloist is Howard Shelley.

GUILDHALL STRINGS
Fri, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (935 2141)
A colourful programme is presented by the Guildhall String Ensemble with Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*, Wolf's Italian Serenade, Rossini's String Sonata No 3 and Mendelssohn's String Symphony No 9.

RIFKIN RAGS
Fri, 8pm, Barbican Centre
Pianist Joshua Rifkin plays a programme including *Figleaf Rag*, *Sugercane*, *The Entertainer*, *Searchlight Rag*, *Roseleaf Rag*, *Wall Street Rag*, *Paragon Rag*, all by Scott Joplin.

ROCK & JAZZ

NEIL
Tonight, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081)
The hippie send-up is good for a chuckle or two, but will it last an entire evening?

CULTURE CLUB
Tonight, Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex (902 1234)
It's what's in the grooves that counts, as the Motown slogan used to have it. Boy George, who usually knows his Motown lines, seems to have fallen into the trap of thinking that it's what's in the gossip columns.

AL GREY/BUDDY TATE
Tonight, Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (439 8722)
Marvellous combination of trombone and tenor saxophone whose Basie-bred mainstream jazz can make everything else sound like junk food.

NIK KERSHAW
Tonight, Queen's Hall, Leeds (0532 431961); tomorrow and Mon, Birmingham Odeon (021 643 6101); Fri to Dec 31, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081)
Junk food – a particularly unexceptionable variety.

BIG COUNTRY
Tonight, Capital Theatre, Aberdeen (0224 583141); tomorrow, Caird Hall, Dundee (0382 28121); Mon, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590)
Christmas at home for these exponents of the guitar-rock renaissance.

PETER GREENWELL
Tonight and Mon to Sat, Pizza on the Park, 11 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (235 5550)
Now that Steve Ross has moved over to the Ritz, Greenwell is the Hyde Park Corner basement's prime resuscitator of the sophisticated cabaret art of Noel Coward.



Thompson twin: Alannah

NICK LOWE
Tomorrow, Mean Fiddler, 28a High Street, Harlesden, London NW10 (961 5490)
An infallible good night out, I'd say, offered by Lowe, Paul Carrack, Martin Belmont and Bobby Irwin, the best human jukebox since Brinsley Schwarz, with a catalogue of classics including Ace's "How Long", Squeeze's "Tempted", and Lowe's "Cruel to be Kind", all of which combine the intimacy of the bedroom Dansette with the raucous glare of the fairground.

WHAM
Tomorrow, Mon, Wed and Thurs, Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex (902 1234)
Clever boys, perfectly attuned to the mood of suburban theme pubs, XR3s and Club Med. The state of young Britain in fact.

SPANDAU BALLET
Tomorrow and Mon, Bournemouth Centre (0202 297297); Thurs, Royal Bath and West Show Ground, Shepton Mallet
Ditto, but aspiring to cocktail bars, 911s and St Lucia.

HOWARD JONES
Tomorrow and Mon, Hammersmith Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (748 4081)
Perfect video pop: catchy, photogenic, economical.

WELLER/SPRING
Tomorrow, Bass Clef, 35 Coronet Street, London N1 (729 2476)
Errol Clarke, a very bright young post-bop pianist, and Andy Cleyndert, bass are the latest recruits to the always enjoyable combo co-led by the tenor saxophonist Don Weller and the drummer Bryan Spring.

SLIM GAILLARD
Mon, Wag Club, 35-37 Wardour Street, London W1 (437 5534)
How better to spend a town-bound Christmas Eve than in the company of the high priest of bebop?

THOMPSON TWINS
Fri to Sun, Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex (902 1234)
Behind the flash and inside the candy floss lurks a reasonable pop band.

Theatre: Anthony Masters; Galleries: Prudence Hone and Sarah Jane Checkland; Opera: Hilary Finch; Dance: John Percival; Concerts: Max Harrison; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams

Quick quiz answers

Sport
1. Five. M. Cooper – men's small bore rifle, three positions. S. Coe – men's 1500m. T. Sanderson – women's javelin. D. Thompson – decathlon. Men's coxed four rowers. 2. Secreto. El Gran Senor. Mighty Flutter. 3. Severiano Ballesteros. 4. Liverpool 1, Everton 0. 5. Steve Davis. 6. Anatoly Karpov. 7. Steve Ovett (3min 30 77secs). 8. Alan Lamb (398, highest score 110). 9. Hull Kingston Rovers. 10. Niki Lauda.

Foreign file
1. (a) Brian Mulroney; (b) David Lange; (c) Laurent Fabius; (d) Herbert Blaize. 2. Sant Jarnail Bhindranwale. 3. Alhaji Umaru Dikko. 4. (a) Raul Alfonsin; (b) Mauno Koivisto; (c) Jose Napoleon Duarte; (d) Li Xiannian. 5. Johannesburg. 6. Mont Louis.

Space
1. Three Soviet cosmonauts in Salyut 7 space station. 2. 238 days. 3. Five (three Challenger, two Discovery). 4. Charles Walker. 5. Iced-up toilets.

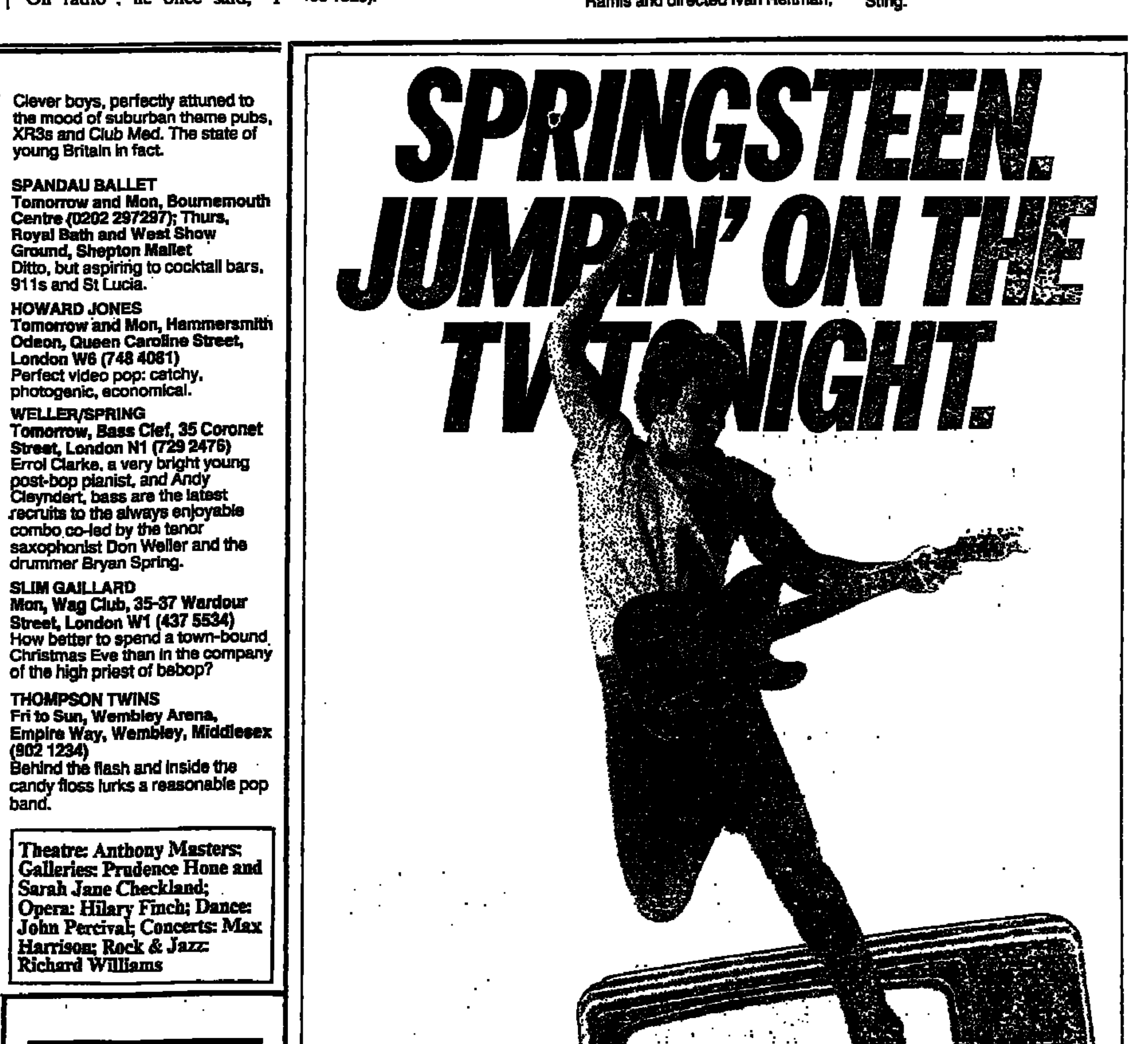
Crime
1. Arthur Hutchinson. 2. Harry Tipple. 3. Wpc Yvonne Fletcher. 4. Pc Brian Bishop. 5. Evelyn Glenholmes. 6. Robert Trimbole. 7. Martin Galvin. 8. Sean (or John) Downs.

Arts
1. Anita Brookner. 2. Claire Nonhebel and Ronald Frame (score a point for each). 3. Marguerite Duras. 4. Jaroslav Seifert. 5. Robert Duvall. 6. The Heart of the Dragon. 7. Because he is black.

Politics
1. 32. 2. There is none. Shirley Williams is president. 3. Dafydd Elis Thomas. 4. Michael Cocks. 5. Lord Denham. 6. Charles Kennedy. 7. James Callaghan. 8. John Selwyn Gummer. 9. Gerald Kaufman. 10. Six.

Miscellany
1. (a) Charles Moore; (b) Simon Courtauld; (c) Mark Boxer; (d) Charles Douglas-Home. 2. Biggest earthquake in Britain for 100 years. 3. Fire at York Minster. 4. Sir John Betjeman. 5. Marmaduke Gingerbits. 6. Waitress Siobhan Spoors's 40in bust. 7. Arthur Scargill (at the Royal Variety Performance).

Royal hats
1. Princess Anne. 2. The Queen. 3. Princess Michael of Kent. 4. Duchess of Kent. 5. Princess of Wales. 6. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. 7. Princess Alexandra. 8. Princess Margaret. 9. Princess Caroline of Monaco. 10. Princess of Wales.



Christmas television and radio

Here is my critical day-by-day guide to almost 60 films showing during Christmas week. They include television premieres of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Mary Poppins* but the accent is on older classics, with a season of Chaplins and such indestructibles as *The Big Sleep*, *The Third Man* and *Some Like It Hot*.

My star rating system (totally subjective, but I hope of value) is as follows:

●●● not to be missed
●● highly recommended
● well worth a look

An asterisk at the end of an entry indicates that the film is being shown on British television for the first time.

Peter Waymark

TODAY

BBC1

BREAKHEART PASS (1975)
5.45-6.15pm
Muddled Alistair MacLean adventure-cum-thriller about a murder-strewn train journey across the Rockies in the 1870s. Charles Bronson and Jill Ireland head the passenger list.

THE BIG SLEEP (1946) ●●●
11.10pm-1am
Moody, explosive private eye thriller directed by Howard Hawks from the novel by Raymond Chandler and featuring the unique screen chemistry of Humphrey Bogart and slinky Lauren Bacall.

BBC2

THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA (1958)
2.50-4.15pm
Ernest Hemingway story, adapted by him for the screen, about an old fisherman (Spencer Tracy) dreaming of *the big catch. Heavy going at times,* despite James Wong Howe's fine camerawork and an Oscar-winning score by Dmitri Tiomkin; directed by John Sturges, a man more at home with action and spectacle.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1947) ●●●
4.15-6.20pm
James Stewart rescued from suicide by a guardian angel and convinced that his life has been worth living after all. Last, and arguably the best, of Frank Capra's series of small-town comedies – a beguiling mixture of fantasy and sentimentality that hardly puts a frame wrong.

BLOOD FROM THE MUMMY'S TOMB (1971) ●
Midnight-1.35pm
A season of *Hammer* horrors kicks off with one of the more distinguished examples, about an archaeological expedition which excavates an Egyptian tomb and wishes it hadn't. Stylish tale of the supernatural directed by the talented, wayward Seth Holt who *died during shooting.*

CHANNEL 4

HOME AT SEVEN (1952)
2-3.35pm
Ralph Richardson stars with Margaret Leighton in the only film he directed, taken from R. C. Sherriff's play about a bank clerk who loses his memory and thinks he may have committed a murder.

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY (1952)
3.35-5.05pm
Richardson and Leighton again, with *Celia Johnson. A flatly filmed but* formidably acted version of Wynyard Browne's play in which a country parson has his life changed by family revelations during a Christmas reunion.

SKATEBOARD (1977)
11.30pm-1.20am
Allen Garfield as a gambler who organizes a skateboard team to pay off his debts. As ephemeral as the craze that inspired it.*

TOMORROW

BBC1

ICE STATION ZEBRA (1968)
3.10-5.30pm
Rock Hudson, Ernest Borgnine and Patrick McGoohan in a race between the Americans and Russians to recover a vital film capsule from the Arctic Circle. Efficient direction (John Sturges), but too much talk.

STEPTOE AND SON (1972)
8.35-10.10pm
Harold marries a stripper but still cannot get away from Dad in patchy spin-off from the television sitcom. Wilfred Brambell and Harry H. Corbett as the rag- and-bone men locked in family conflict.

BBC2

TORN CURTAIN (1966) ●
10.10pm-12.10am
Alfred Hitchcock's fiftieth film, a spy thriller which seems to get better with each viewing. Paul Newman as an American professor apparently about to defect. Julie Andrews the fiancée who refuses to be left behind; neither was *happily cast, but typical Hitchcock* mischief helps to compensate.

ITV

SCROOGE (1970)
3.15-5.15pm
Leslie Bricusse's musical version of A Christmas Carol fails to take off despite a game performance by Albert Finney as the old miser, and a supporting cast that boasts Alec Guinness and Edith Evans.

CHANNEL 4

THE TALL TARGET (1951)
10.50pm-12.15am
Dick Powell as a disgraced detective trying to prevent the assassination of President Lincoln on the train carrying him to his inauguration. Suspense thriller, with echoes of *The Lady Vanishes*, tautly directed by Anthony Mann.

CHRISTMAS EVE

BBC1

THE CRUEL SEA (1952) ●
2.15-4.15pm
Stiff upper lips to the fore as Jack Hawkins and his men re-fight the battle of the Atlantic. Faithful Ealing production of the Nicholas Monsarrat best-seller about the adventures of a British corvette.

ONE OF OUR DINOSAURS IS MISSING (1975) ●
6.55-8.25pm
Adroit children's comedy from Walt Disney about missing microfilm hidden in a skeleton in the British Museum. Peter Ustinov overacts deliciously as the Chinese intelligence officer hot on the trail.*

BBC2

THE GOLD RUSH (1925) ●●●
2.35-3.45pm
A Chaplin retrospective kicks off with probably his most popular feature, in which the little tramp is prospecting for gold in Alaska. Unforgettable scenes include Charlie eating his boots and the dance of the rolls. Chaplin's voice-over and music were added in 1942.

LITTLE WOMEN (1949)
4.45-6.40pm
Lush, sentimental version of Louisa May Alcott's story of four sisters growing up in the America of the 1860s. June Allyson, Margaret O'Brien, Elizabeth Taylor and Janet Leigh make up the quartet and there is crisp support from Mary Astor.

THE QUIET MAN (1952) ●●
10pm-12.10am
Boisterous, Oscar-laden John Ford comedy set in an Irish never-never-land. John Wayne as an ex-boxer returning to his native Galway to fall in love with Maureen O'Hara and engage in *memorable fisticuffs with Victor* McLaglen.

ITV

BENJI (1974)
10.40am-noon
Likeable family picture in which a stray mongrel dog saves two kidnapped children.

THE RETURN OF THE PINK PANTHER (1974)
3.10-5.15pm
Peter Sellers as the bungling Inspector Clouseau, back on the trail of the stolen diamond. One of the earlier and fresher examples of a series that eventually outstayed its welcome.

FUN WITH DICK AND JANE (1977)
9-10.40pm
Trouble is that the film never quite decides whether it is just fun or a satire *on American middle-class life. Sprightly* performances from George Segal, a fired aerospace executive who turns to crime, and Jane Fonda as his wife.

CHANNEL 4

A PLACE OF ONE'S OWN (1944) ●
10.55pm-12.40am
Elegantly crafted Edwardian ghost story, from a novel by Osbert Sitwell. Margaret Lockwood becomes secretary-companion to an elderly couple (James Mason, Barbara Mullen) in a country house and is possessed by the spirit of a murdered girl.

Hoofing on the roofing: Dick Van Dyke leads the chorus of dancing sweeps in Mary Poppins (Christmas Day); Tracey Ullman in The Young Visiters (Christmas Day) and Orson Welles in The Third Man (Boxing Day); Charlie Chaplin in The Gold Rush (Christmas Eve); Harrison Ford in Raiders of the Lost Ark (Christmas Day)

CHRISTMAS DAY

BBC1

BLUE MURDER AT ST TRINIAN'S (1957)
12.35-2pm
Second of the four films based on Ronald Searle's awful schoolgirls. A silly plot about the girls getting involved with a jewel thief in Rome; but rich character playing from Alastair Sim as the headmistress, George Cole as the spiv, and Joyce Grenfell.

MARY POPPINS (1964) ●●
3.10-5.25pm
On television at last, the Walt Disney favourite about a magical Edwardian nanny (Julie Andrews, in her film debut) floating in on her umbrella to take charge of two naughty children. Clever mixture of animation and live action and a cluster of catchy songs.*

SOME LIKE IT HOT (1959) ●●
10.55pm-12.50am
Overstretched but intermittently brilliant Billy Wilder comedy of the bootleg era with Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis disguised as girl musicians, and Marilyn Monroe as a real girl musician, on the run from gangsters. Curtis sends up Cary Grant, George Raft sends up himself; the opening sequence is a gem.

BBC2

LIMELIGHT (1952) ●●●
3.25-5.35pm
Late Chaplin film in which he plays a fading music hall comic who saves a young ballerina (Claire Bloom) from suicide and finds new meaning in his own life. Indulgent but ultimately moving study of an old man's twilight, with a brief but telling routine in which Chaplin and Buster Keaton revive the glories of silent comedy.

KAOS (1984) ●●
8.55pm-midnight
Early television showing for one of this year's cinema plums – the Taviani brothers's exquisite rendering of four stories of Sicilian life by Luigi Pirandello; plus an epilogue.*

ITV

THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN (1974)
3.10-5.25pm
Christopher Lee takes time out from his horror movies to play the suave baddie, Scaramanga, trying to nail James Bond (Roger Moore) with his golden bullets. Acceptable re-hash of familiar 007 ingredients.

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK (1981) ●●
8.30-10.40pm
Harrison Ford as the archaeologist Indiana Jones in pursuit of Nazi treasure hunters in Steven Spielberg's affectionate homage to the Saturday morning serials. An action packed, sometimes incoherent film, whose writer, Lawrence Kasdan, has since turned director with *Body Heat.**

CHANNEL 4

JOUR DE FÊTE (1949) ●●●
1.50-3.20pm
Joyous first feature from Jacques Tati as the village postman who tries to show *that he can be just as efficient as the* Americans when it comes to delivering mail. The beautifully fashioned gags are combined with subtle observation of French rural life.

THE YOUNG VISITERS (1984) ●
3.20-5pm
Tracey Ullman as the heroine of a Victorian romance as chronicled by the nine-year-old Daisy Ashford. Writer-director James Hill faithfully captures the charm of the original, with Carina Radford playing Daisy.*

WEDNESDAY

BBC 1

THE ADVENTURES OF QUENTIN DURWARD (1955)
9.15-10.55am
Spirited romp from Sir Walter Scott's novel set in fifteenth century France with dashing Robert Taylor falling in love with lovely Kay Kendall; Robert Morley, Marius Goring and Wilfrid Hyde White keep the party going and there is a rousing climax in a bell tower.

THE FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (1965)
1.50-4.10pm
James Stewart, Richard Attenborough and Peter Finch head the star-studded survivors of a crashed plane in the Sahara desert; Hardy Kruger as the young German who may have a way out.

ESCAPE TO VICTORY (1981)
6.20-8.10pm
Michael Caine, Sylvester Stallone and real footballers Pele, Bobby Moore and Ossie Ardiles playing soccer against the Germans in a Second World War prison camp. Recreation of a true incident, *slackly directed by John Huston.**

BBC 2

THE GREAT DICTATOR (1940)
3.05-5.05pm ●●●
Chaplin's first full talkie, a searing *satire on Adolf Hitler which mixes* joyous slapstick and cold anger. Charlie underlines the point by playing both the dictator and a persecuted Jewish barber, and there is a splendid Mussolini from Jack Oakie. Paulette Goddard (Chaplin's third wife) in appealing support.

THE THIRD MAN (1949) ●●●
10.45-12.30am
One of the most enjoyable of all thrillers, set amid the ruins and rackets of post-war Vienna with Joseph Cotten as the writer of hack Westerns searching for his old *friend Harry Lime. Orson Welles is* the villain oozing charm; original script by Graham Greene; atmospheric direction by Carol Reed; haunting music by the Austrian zither player Anton Karas.

ITV

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN (1953) ●
10.05am-noon
Sugary biopic of the Danish story teller, lifted by an engaging performance from Danny Kaye and a raft of hummable Frank Loesser songs including *Thumbelina* and *Wonderful, Wonderful Copenhagen.*

AIRPLANE! (1980) ●
9.15-10.50pm
Spirited send-up of the disaster movie in which a former pilot has to man the controls when the crew is attacked by food poisoning. More pace than flair but some hilarious moments. With Lloyd Bridges and Peter Graves.*

CHANNEL 4

THE LIVES OF A BENGAL LANCER (1935) ●
4-6pm
Gary Cooper and Franchot Tone coming to the rescue of a fellow officer in a stirring tale of the Indian North-West Frontier directed by Henry Hathaway.

LA VERITE (1960)
9.45pm-12.10am
Brigitte Bardot on trial for *murdering her lover (Sami Frey) in* veteran director Henri-Georges Clouzot's intense story of crime and passion; said to be Bardot's favourite film and one of the few that stretched her as an actress.*

THURSDAY

BBC1

THE COURAGE OF LASSIE (1946)
2.20-3.50 pm
The cinema's favourite collie, here confusingly called Bill, helping to win the Second World War and the heart of its youthful owner, Elizabeth Taylor.

BBC2

THE VALLEY OF GWANGI (1968)
12.45-3.10pm
Ray Harryhausen's special effects are the highlight of this tall tale of the discovery of prehistoric monsters in a forbidden valley of Mexico.

MONSIEUR VERDOUX (1947) ●●●
3.25-5.25pm
Little seen Chaplin film, which raised an outcry on its first release, in which he plays a modern Bluebeard, marrying and murdering rich women for their money. Critics were shocked by its cynical view of bourgeois morality but it *has survived as one of Chaplin's* sharpest and most original works.

REAP THE WILD WIND (1942)
6-8pm
Opulent period spectacular from Cecil B. de Mille, a story of love and intrigue on the great sailing ships off the Florida Keys. Stars John Wayne, Ray Milland and a giant squid.

ITV

THE THIRTY NINE STEPS (1978) ●
2.30-4.15pm
Third screen adaptation of John Buchan's spy thriller, with Robert Powell as the intrepid adventurer Richard Hannay. Lacks the flair of the 1935 Hitchcock version but closer to Buchan in period and plot and manages a nail biting climax on the face of Big Ben.

SOMEBODY KILLED HER HUSBAND (1978)
7.30-9.15pm
Unhappily married Farrah Fawcett-Majors has an affair with toy salesman Jeff Bridges, decides to tell her husband about it but finds he has been bumped off. Routine mystery thriller, trying for a *light touch.*

CHANNEL 4

OH! WHAT A LOVELY WAR (1969) ●●
10pm-12.40pm
Brave attempt by Richard Attenborough – his first film as director – to translate *Joan Littlewood's angry stage musical* on the horrors and follies of the First World War. With a host of stars – Olivier, Gielgud, Redgrave, Richardson – in cameo parts.

FRIDAY

BBC1

THE BOY WHO TURNED YELLOW (1972)
5.05-6pm
The last film to date by the celebrated *British screen partnership of Michael* Powell and Emeric Pressburger: a fantasy about a boy's adventures with a visitor from outer space called Nick (short for Electronic).*

NORTH SEA HIJACK (1979)
7.10-8.45pm
Roger Moore, heavily disguised behind a beard and glasses, foiling a plot to seize a North Sea oilrig. And if you believe that . . . .

BRIEF ENCOUNTER (1945) ●●
10.45pm-12.10am
Railway station romance for housewife Celia Johnson and doctor Trevor *Howard in David Lean's careful* enlargement of a short play by Noel Coward. Often derided for its emotional restraint but exquisitely played and utterly true to its setting and period.

BBC2

A KING IN NEW YORK (1957) ●
3.25-5.15pm
Curious late Chaplin film in which he gives vent to the bitterness surrounding his enforced exile from the United States in the early 1950s. Universally savaged by the critics but now that the dust has settled worth another look.

THE CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN (1957) ●
10.05-11.25pm
A gory re-working of the famous Hollywood *Frankenstein* and the film that launched the cycle of Hammer horror. With the suavely chilling Peter *Cushing as Baron Frankenstein and* Christopher Lee inheriting Boris Karloff's monster.

DRACULA (1958) ●
11.25pm-12.50am
Another offering from the Hammer studio, with the same leading men – Lee this time as Dracula and Cushing as Van Helsing. A stylish concoction from an underrated director, Terence Fisher.

ITV

THE GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD (1973)
2.45-4.45pm
John Philip Law leading his brave band of seafarers through magic and fantasy with the help of striking trick effects from Ray Harryhausen.

RYAN'S DAUGHTER (1970) ●
8-9.50pm; 10.05-11.50pm.
Carefully crafted, sumptuously *photographed but overlong story of* Irish girl Sarah Miles who marries dull schoolteacher Robert Mitchum and has an affair with a shell shocked soldier.

CHANNEL 4

NEVER GIVE A SUCKER AN EVEN BREAK (1941) ●
11.45am-1pm.
Shambolic and virtually plotless late W. C. Fields vehicle redeemed by a characteristic sample of the great man's humour, including one-liners like "she drove me to drink, the one thing I'm indebted to her".

THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1970) ●
10.30pm-12.45am.
Sherlock Holmes (Robert Stephens) compromised by a Russian ballerina and smoking out German spies in Scotland. Billy Wilder's affectionate pastiche had Colin Blakely as Watson.

Lo, stars with plum parts in a merry menu . . .

TV choice

In Cagney and Lacey (BBC1, Christmas Eve, 8.55-9.45pm) a psychopathic gunman holds Mary Beth hostage in a boxcar. But never mind: Val Doonican is round the corner to soothe things down with the help of Pam Ayres and the TV weathermen. Christmas television in a nutshell: an unceasing flow of the melodramatic and the dotty, one merging effortlessly into the other.

It is the time when the good are upstaged by the great. A guest on the **Paul Daniels Magic Christmas Show** (BBC1, Christmas Day, 6.35-7.25pm) is the showbusiness personality of the year, Robert Maxwell. It is the time when Penelope Keith, preferably with Paul Eddington, gets a plum part in a Noel Coward revival; this year Judith Bliss in Hay Fever (BBC2, Boxing Day, 7.25-9pm).

It is the time to remember those who lit up previous Christmases. **Bring Me Sunshine** (ITV, Christmas Day, 6-8.30pm) is a mammoth tribute to the late Eric Morecambe, introduced by Ernie Wise, and featuring the likes of Angela Rippon and Des O'Connor. *Ingrid* (BBC2, Boxing Day, 6.20-7.25pm) recalls the famous films and turbulent private of Ingrid Bergman, with the help of home movies of her childhood edited by her namesake (but no relation) Ingmar.

No Christmas would be complete, either, without Agatha Christie. The latest cull from the Queen of Crime is a three-part dramatization of **The Body in the Library**, with Joan Hickson playing the shrewd spinster sleuth Miss Marple. Mary the maid is strangled on the hearthrug and Colonel Bantry (Moray Watson) is the number one suspect. Andrew Cruikshank, Gwen Watford and Valentine Dyall are also implicated. The story opens on BBC1, Boxing Day, 9.15-10.10pm; and continues on Thursday and Friday.

Good to see **Dave Allen** back after too long a gap (BBC1, Boxing Day, 9.55-10.45pm); he is a comedian of rare wit who is never predictable. The opposite might be said of **The Two Ronnies** (BBC1, Christmas Day, 8.55-9.55pm) whose appeal lies precisely in routines that have hardly changed since the first Corbett/Barker show back in 1970. But why mess about with the menu when the dishes are still popular? Mike Yarwood you either love or hate: he is on ITV on Boxing Day (7.15-8.15pm).

Another offering from Ingmar Bergman this week: his **Fanny and Alexander** is being shown in its full, five-hour version over three evenings. The shorter cinema film gave only a taste of the richness and complexity of one of Bergman's finest works, a delicate study of childhood in the early years of the century. Part one is on







Royal couple: Mike Yarwood and Barbara New

BBC2, tomorrow, 8.35-10.10pm, with part two on Friday and the final part on Saturday, December 29.

There is drama of a different kind in the latest BBC2 **Shakespeare, Much Ado About Nothing** (today, 8.15-10.45pm): Robert Lindsay, seen recently as the snooker tycoon in Give Us a Break plays Benedick and Cherie Lunghi is Beatrice. A contemporary play worth catching is **December Flower** (ITV, tomorrow, 9.30-10.45pm), Judy Allen's perceptive treatment of family tensions directed by Stephen Frears. Mona Washbourne is an old lady neglected by her family, Jean Simmons the kindly visitor; and Bryan Forbes makes his first acting appearance for 17 years.

Channel 4 drama includes Peter Cushing in a newly invented Sherlock Holmes adventure, **The Masks of Death** (tomorrow, 8.15-9.45pm) with John Mills as Watson; and the West End hit farce about bogus vicars, **See How They Run**, played to the hilt by Maureen Lipman, Michael Denison and Derek Nimmo (Christmas Day, 8.30-10pm).

Giants of opera are the subjects of **Pavarotti at Madison Square Garden** (BBC2, Boxing Day, 9-10.15pm), a record of his New York concert attended by 20,000 people; and **Placido**, a year in the life of Placido Domingo (Channel 4, Christmas Eve, 9-10.45pm) which shows just how gruelling life at the top can be. Vladimir Ashkenazy and the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra take part in the latest of the series of composer portraits by Christopher Nupen, **Jean Sibelius** (Channel 4, Christmas Day, 10-11.55pm).

Music in more popular idiom is provided in **Lena Horne – The Lady and Her Music** (BBC2, Christmas Eve, 8.25-10pm), a record of her one-woman show including distinctive interpretations of "From This Moment On", "The Lady is a Tramp" and the song that became her signature tune, "Stormy Weather". Horne also turns up in **Richard Rodgers: The Sound of His Music** (BBC2, Friday, 1.45-3.25pm), a starry American tribute to the composer of more than 1,000 songs and 42 shows.

There is a treat for small boys of all ages in **A Lineside Look at Model Railways** (Channel 4, Boxing Day, 11.10am-noon), presented by the tubby, genial Bob Symes. Here are the pick of the country's miniature layouts, testaments to loving care and eye for detail. A documentary with a more robust theme is Sandy Gall's celebration of 100 years of **The Cresta Run** (ITV, Boxing Day, noon-1pm), the world's best known toboggan course.

Hark, the archives peal again

Radio choice

The most poignant event of the week will be Terry Wogan's farewell from his early morning record show. The Irish charmer signs off on Friday (Radio 2, 7.30-10am) after a run of 12 years; for millions breakfast time will never be the same again.

Elsewhere Christmas radio is doing its best to drum up nostalgia with shows like **Family Favourites**, revived on Christmas Eve (Radio 2, 1-3pm) under the genial guidance of Cliff Michelmore, and **Forces Favourites** with Jean Metcalfe at the same time on Christmas Day. It was while presenting **Family Favourites** from London and Hamburg in 1948 that Jean and Cliff first met; they married two years later.

Nostalgia appeals, too, in classic radio comedy. The Goons – Sellers, Milligan and Secombe – are in their 1955 show, **The International Christmas Pudding** (Radio 4, Boxing Day, 1.05-1.40pm). And there are Christmas editions from the archives of **Round the Horne**, with Kenneth Horne, Hugh Paddick, Kenneth Williams and company (Radio 4, Christmas Day, 1.10-1.40pm) and **Take It From Here**, in which Jimmy Edwards, Dick Bentley and June Whitfield appear as the Glums (Radio 4, today, 8.15-8.45am).

Alistair Cooke's **Letter From America** started in 1946 and is therefore in its fifth decade. There are samples from the previous four, starting on Monday (Radio 4, 10.30am) and the latest epistle, the 1,872th, is on Friday (Radio 4, 10.30-10.45am). Cooke also starts another of his occasional series on popular music. This one is called **Only By Women** (Radio 2, Friday, 10.30-11pm) and looks at the female contribution to American music, the composers, the instrumentalists and the singers.

Drama works particularly well on radio, challenging the listeners to attend to the words and paint their own pictures of characters and settings. **Saturday Night Theatre** (Radio 4, today, 8.30-10pm) has a seasonal offering in **Christmas at Dingley Dell**, adapted from *The Pickwick Papers* and *Christmas Stories* of Charles Dickens and featuring David March as Mr Pickwick.

Then on Monday (Radio 4, 7.30-9.30pm) **Man and Superman**, with Alec McCowen and Anna Massey, heralds a series called **Shaw At Christmas**. There is a play a night and a chance to savour again Judi Dench as **Saint Joan**, Anna Massey as **Major Barbara**, Peter Barkworth playing Magnus in **The Apple Cart** and Derek Godfrey and Sarah Badel in **The Doctor's Dilemma**.

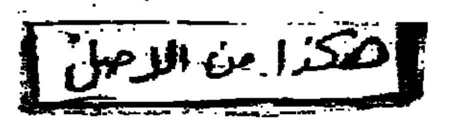
But there is new material as well. It occurs most notably in documentary. On Friday Ray Gosling, one of our most accomplished younger broadcasters, investigates the bizarre tale of the Rector of Stiffkey in **A Proper Little Gent** (Radio 4, 9.45-10.30am).

The Rev Harold Davidson *claimed* he was saving young women from sin. The church called it immoral conduct, and he was unfrocked. He turned variety artist to raise money for an appeal and met a tragic end in a lion's cage.

Another curious life is recalled in **The Tenor They Called the Lancashire Caruso** (Radio 4, Friday, 9.30 to 10.15pm). Thomas Burke, a miner from Leigh, was during the 1920s one of the country's leading opera singers. But when he gave his last stage performance he was still not yet 40 and he spent the rest of his life dreaming of a comeback that never came.

A third documentary, **The Dream Child**, is a portrait of the essayist Charles Lamb, who died 150 years ago (Radio 4, Thursday, 9.45-10.30am). He was a kind, gentle man who lived with the family tragedy of seeing his sister, Mary, go berserk and kill their mother.

Two final delights: Emlyn Williams reading from his own adaptations of Dickens in four programmes starting on Radio 4 (Christmas Day, 11.15-11.45pm); and the **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** from King's College Chapel, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve (Radio 4, 3-4.30pm).



THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Ups and downs on the privatization ladder

The Royal Ordnance Factories are to join the conveoyor belt to privatization on January 2 when the Defence Ministry announced yesterday, they will start the year trading as Royal Ordnance plc. That date is far too soon for trade union leaders, who have to reach agreements on conditions in the new company and what will happen to 1,500 people made redundant, but it will be none too soon for Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, who is no doubt keen to make his contribution to the privatization drive and knows that it will take Royal Ordnance plc at least 15 months and up to two years to get into a condition that might appeal to the public.

Meanwhile Lord King, who has acheived all this transformation and more at British Airways, finds himself stalled on the runway by the private lawsuits over the demise of Laker Airways overhanging BA's finances. It is not as if Lord King – and indeed the Transport Department – has not pulled out all the stops and cut as many corners as possible to ensure that BA was floated in the present financial year, as Sir Adam Thomson and the US Justice Department can testify. But the multi-million lawsuits remain to ruin Lord King's commitment to a February sale.

The delay should not be too embarrassing for the Treasury. Higher than expected proceeds from the first tranche of British Telecom, plus Enterprise Oil and earlier sales have already more or less filled up the £1.9 billion privatization norm for 1984-85, although the exact numbers depend on how all the costs of the BT issue are charged.

Money market analysts watching the monthly public borrowing figures like hawks will not be so happy. Nor will Lord King. The delay is not merely frustrating. Lord King is understandably anxious not to miss the confluence of booming stock markets and airline markets. The Transport Department remains committed to privatization as early as possible, but the delay could be costly.

For the Treasury, on the other hand, it could be quite convenient. Next year's quota for asset sales is £2.5 billion, though this is not quite the same as privatization targets as some of these show up in state industry external financing balances. The second tranche of British Telecom will provide a strong base, but an extra £500 million net from British Airways would be useful too. Unipart, Short Brothers, National Bus and parts of Rolls-Royce are all lining up.

The first to show, however, could well be some of British Shipbuilders' warship yards. Negotiations are apace at Brooke Marine, and selling memoranda are available for Yarrow and Hall Russell with bids due in on a tight schedule by January 21. Management buyouts are possible in any or all of these as well as Vosper-Thorneycroft.

Vickers will be a big bite for anyone. The three remaining yards – Vosper, Swan Hunter and Cammell Laird – await decisions about placing orders for Type 22 frigates. The decisions were promised before Christmas, but Mr Heseltine's department does not seem to have been in such a hurry for action in this case.

Polly Peck profits in the box

Mr Asil Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck, is trying hard to convince the sceptics who still cannot quite believe that a company which made £50.55 million out of cardboard boxes from nothing three years ago is here to stay. The 60-page annual report carefully details the company's activities and for shareholders who turn up to the annual meeting in February, there is a video of the fruit being packed, the televisions being assembled and the mineral water being bottled. Mr Nadir himself is in no doubt about his company's ability to survive and prosper. A confident £39.65 million is earmarked for capital spending this year against £18.8 million last year. All will be financed internally.

Sales of television video recorders are only just under way, but Polly Peck has captured 13 per cent of the Turkish market and hopes to have 25 per cent shortly after the factory reaches full production in February. Despite the high costs of a colour television (£550 to £660) there is an estimated market of one million sets a year. A flourishing black economy apparently belies Turkey's official statistics of per capita income. Margins are satisfactory, says Mr Nadir, despite the 28 to 50 per cent duty on components.

This year's profits will have first-time contributions from consumer electronics and mineral water as well as burgeoning profits from fruit packing. Last year the agricultural side showedprofits up 73 per cent on breathtaking 41.7 per cent margins, which were, however, down from 43.6 per cent the previous year.

Last year analysts overestimated Polly Peck's profits because of slippage in the televison and water projects. This year they are being strongly urged to err on the side of caution. Even so they are forecasting £80 million pretax profits, which givers a prospective p/e ratio of four on a 35 per cent tax ratio. Mr Nadir does not want to talk much about future projects for fear of being castigated again for being behind schedule. However, a food processing joint venture with Metal Box will get under way this year. The proposed projects with Racal on defence electronics and Daihatsu to make cars are for a later date.

Treasury clash with Bank continues

The rift between the Bank of England and the Treasury is set to spill over into 1985. A fine disagreement is brewing over real wages (not a reference to the Old Lady's traditional high salaries).

The Bank's panel of academic consultants has been considering the link between real wages and jobs. So too have the Treasury's economists. A paper will appear from both Bank and Treasury in January and we expect them to come to markedly different conclusions.

The scene was set by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, on October 21. In a *Weekend World* interview, Mr Lawson said that if real wage growth had been 3 per cent less over the past year, half a million more people would have been in work. Since then the Treasury has been hard at work trying to support this claim, a task which, it appears, is not easy.

The difficulty is not in proving there that there is a link. In the Treasury model, real wage cuts work through to higher employment, principally through the demand-boosting effects of lower inflation on savings. They also alter the balance of advantage between capital and labour. The problem has been producing an effect which matches Mr Lawson's calculations. Treasury economists are said to be pulling out every stop, includig allocating model discrepancies like company sector residual adjustments to employment, and yet still falling short of the "proving" that one per cent off real wages produces an extra 200,000 jobs.

A sample of the Bank of England panel's view was provided in the *Quarterly Bulletin*, published yesterday.

Professor J. R. Sargent concluded that a range of influences, of which the real wage is only one, is needed to explain employment changes fully. Sir Bryan Hopkin, former government chief economic adviser, sees some link between real wages and international competitiveness, but no generalized "high wage-induced unemployment" concept for the British economy applies.

Both stress the importance of the difference between real wages, as perceived by the worker, and real product wages (money wages plus employment costs like national insurance contributions, divided by an index of value added in money terms), as seen by the employer. The panel's provisional conclusion is that to see real wages cuts as a panacea for high unemployment misses out other, equally important, influences.

A year ago, the Bank's panel caused controversy, and a few red faces among Treasury ministers, by publishing a paper by Hendry and Ericsson, criticizinf Dr Milton Friedman's work on the link between the money supply, inflation and growth in Britain. The Bank's academic consultants are ready to resume their thorn-in-the-Treasury-flesh role next month.

Thwarted Reckitt & Colman buys Airwick for £165m

By Alison Eadie

Reckitt & Colman, the mustard to Disprin group headed by Sir James Cleminson, which lost the battle for the Australian company Nicholas Kiwi seven weeks ago, is buying the Airwick Group from Ciba-Geigy fo SwFr 500 million (£165 million).

Airwick is a consumer products company best known in Britain for its air fresheners and Gumption household cleaner. Air fresheners account for 30 per cent of its total turnover and household products for more than 70 per cent.

Reckitt had Airwick under consideration when it made its abortive bid for Nicholas Kiwi. As a second best it has strong attractions for Reckitt. It has 38 per cent of its turnover in North America, the geographical region where Reckitt is most keen to expand.

Mr David Clifford company secretary, said Airwick "had the critical mass in North America we have been looking for".

It is also far less likely to lead to monopoly complications than the Australian deal might have. There is some overlap of products – Reckitt makes an air freshener called Haze, but not enough it is felt, to create difficulties.

The price being paid implies an exit p/e of between 35 and 40, which Reckitt admits is high, but says it is not buying past profits. Profits before tax in 1983 were SwFr 29 million. Reckitt believes it can dramatically improve Airwick's profits margins, which are 3 per cent compared with Reckitt's average of about 10 per cent.

Airwick's past profits performance has not been impressive, because it has been part of a chemicals company, Reckitt says. As part of a consumer products group it will be a perfect fit.

Airwick's largest markets outside America are France (15 per cent of turnover), Germany (15 per cent) and Italy (9 per cent). Reckitt had already identified France and Italy as two countries where it wanted to expand.

Sir James Cleminson: plans for US

The purchase will be paid for out of the proceeds of the £106 million rights issue last September and borrowings to make up the difference. Group net debt at the end of 1983 was £7.2 million.

The Airwick acquisition is considerably cheaper than Nicholas Kiwi would have been. The bidding was pushed up to a $452 million (£322 million) by the intervention of the American Consolidated Foods Corporation, which eventually won. The Airwick bid will still require the approval of Reckitt shareholders.

Airwick's net assets at the end of December 1984 are forecast to be SwFr 210 million (£69 million) and it has no borrowings other than intercompany loans of SwFr 40 million, already deducted from the net asset figure.

The acquisition will increase Reckitt's household and toiletry business by more than 50 per cent.

Opec to fix prices next week

From David Young
Geneva

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) has given itself a week to agree on a system of controlling oil output and prices. It hopes to restore world confidence in its ability to stabilize prices and heal several wounds in the organization.

The options available to the 13-member producers' cartel were outlined yesterday to the oil ministers in Geneva.

The ministers will spend the next week explaining proposals for policing Opec agreements to their heads of state and governments in the hope that final approval can be granted next week when the Opec meeting reconvenes in Geneva.

The main proposal put forward by a committee made up of Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates is that an auditing commission should be set up with powers to obtain precise information of members' output and prices being charged.

However, there is strong opposition from some members who claim that such a body would interfere with their sovereign powers to control the development of their main industry and their economies.

For that reason a far-reaching proposal that Opec should set up its own oil sales department through which all output would be channeled to world consumers has been firmly vetoed. The fact that Saudi Arabia seems prepared to go along with a auditing commission may persuade other nations to accept. On the question of sovereign rights to control its oil production, Saudi Arabian has always taken a hard line. For that reason is the only Opec member not to have a firm production quota, acting instead as "swing producer" and moving its output up or down within the overall Opec quota framework.

However, Sheik Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, said yesterday that he will support the proposed measures to tighten-up Opec discipline.

He said: "Until we can have agreement on how our production quotas are adhered to there is no point in discussing the matter of price differentials."

The price differential issue will also be completed next week in Geneva with a new scale of crude prices being set. The overall Opec benchmark price will remain at $29, but the price of heavy crudes will rise and the cost of the light crudes, which trade in opposition to North Sea output, will fall.

However, the issues of discipline and prices now being taken to member governments have opened several internal arguments, notably between Iran, whose output is almost entirely light oil and the conservative Gulf states which can produce both types of crude. Often bitter exchanges between Iran and the Saudi Arabian delegation have clouded this week's meeting and added to the tension within Opec.

Sterling rallies as exports hit record

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain ran a current account surplus of £278 million last month, as exports reached a record level, and trade in manufactured goods returned to surplus. The trade deficit dropped from £888 million in October to £122 million in November.

The figures helped the pound gain 72 points against the dollar to $1.1735, the sterling index rising 0.2 to 73.2.

Exports rose from £6,254 million in October, itself a record, to £6,450 million in November. Non-oil exports were up 6.5 per cent in volume terms in the September-November period, compared with the previous three months.

Exports of manufactured goods were strong, and overall exports to North America rose 15 per cent in November, supporting the view that the pound's low level against the dollar is emerging as an important factor.

Imports fell sharply, from £7,142 million in October to £6,572 million in November. This was due to the fact that new value added tax regulations were introduced at the ports from November 1, and many importers brought forward imports to avoid them.

In spite of the November fall, non-oil import volume was up by 7 per cent in the September-November period, compared with the previous three months, and 14 per cent on the corresponding period of 1983.

The surplus on oil trade was £424 million in November, compared with £388 million in October. The monthly surplus has been halved during the coal strike.

The cumulative January-November current account deficit is £181 million, compared with a Treasury autumn statement forecast of zero for the full year.

Big majority opposed to Price Waterhouse merger

By Ian Griffiths

The rejection by partners in Price Waterhouse's British practice of the proposed merger with Deloitte Haskins and Sells was more comprehensive than has previously been envisaged.

It is understood that up to 80 per cent of PW's partners in the United Kingdom voted against the merger, thus vetoing the creation of the biggest accountancy firm in the world.

While neither firm can officially confirm figures, the majority against the merger must have been substantial since the announcement of the outcome was made so promptly

Had voting been close, both firms had the facility to return to dissenting partners to try to convince them to give their support to obtain the 75 per cent majority required from the four main countries, the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia and Canada, for the merger to go ahead.

When details of merger talks between the two firms first emerged it was assumed that resistance would come mainly from Deloitte and in particular the British practice where the two firms are more equally positioned than elsewhere.

As *The Times* revealed on Thursday, the initial proposals from Price Waterhouse amounted to little more than a takeover. Deloitte then offered counter proposals which would have resulted in a genuine merger of equals which PW's policy team accepted.

While these new proposals won the backing of all Deloitte's key partnerships throughout the world it proved impossible for the PW leadership in the United Kingdom to generate enough support for the deal.

Shares of Tomatin suspended

By Jeremy Warner

Fears were growing last night over the furure of Tomatin Distillers as last-ditch efforts were being made to mount a new financial rescue for the loss-making Scotch whisky group.

Dealing in the company's shares were suspended yesterday morning at 18p where a value of £1.3 million was placed on the whole group.

Tomatin of Inverness, which owns Scotland's largest malt whisky distillery, was rescued from collapse nearly two years ago after a £3 million injection of capital by British and Commonwealth Shipping, Scottish Amicable and the Heineken brewing group.

However, the expected upturn in the Scotch whisky market since then has failed to materialize and heavy losses have persisted.

Last night, Tomatin directors, led by the chairman, Mr Anthony de Boer, were locked in discusions with their financial advisers, the merchant bank, Kleinwort Benson. It is believed that attempts were being made to bring in a partner to help support the group.

Group losses in the first half of this year soared to £1.1 million and the chairman said that there were still not signs of recovery in demand for new whisky.

"It is likely that this situation could continue through 1985 creating serious difficuties for the company and further substantial losses in the second half of this year. The board is considering ways in which the financial position of the compay can be strengthened," he said.

Tomatin has been hit harder than most other distillers by the fall off in demand for Scotch because most of its whisky is sold wholesale and it has therefore been severely affected by heavy destocking in the industry.

The company's Inverness distillery has been working at less than 20 per cent capacity for several years.

Commercial loan for IFC

The International Finance Corporation, the private enterprise funding arm of the World Bank, has made its first borrowing in the commercial market. The success of the operation is likely to encourage further tapping of private investors and underlines the trend within the Bank to more external financing from unofficial sources.

The IFC has borrowed $50 million by issuing 10-year notes carrying a coupon of 10.4 per cent offered at par. The notes have been placed privately with European investors by Nomura International in London, the Japanese securities house.

In June the IFC announced that it would double its capital over the next five years to $1,300 million (£1,120 million). The IFC previously obtained nearly all its funds from the World Bank, but political opposition to extra resources for the Bank, particularly from the United States, had driven the IFC into the private market.

The £50m will be used for general lending by IFC. Earlier in the year the IFC laid down its priorities as being energy exploitation in the Third World, encouraging entrepreneurship in sub-Saharan Africa, and re-capitalising companies in Latin America.

£12.3m takeover

Aitken Hume, the financia services group, made an agreed £12.3 million bid for the shares it dose not already own in Whittington, International, a property group. The terms are two Aitken shares for every 11 Whittington, valuing Whittington shares at 25.5p. Aitken and its associates own about 14 per cent and have promises of acceptance from 38.2 per cent of th equity. The group insfalled new management in Whittington two years ago. Whittington's shares firmed to 23p last night, while Aitken's price eased 5p to 136p.

Dutch deal

British Land and its Dutch partner, Wereldhave, have let the 500,000 sq ft De Bogaard centre in Rijswijk, near The Hague, to the Dutch government building service on a new 12-year lease with no break clauses. British Land and Wereldhave recently bought the British and Belgian property portfolios of The Rank Organisation for a total of £57.5 million.

BHP higher

Broken Hill Proprietry, Australia's biggest company, raised its interim net operating profits to A$341m ($244m) from A$282m. The dividend is 25 cents, compared with 20 cents. But BHP says that increased competition in all sectors will make it difficult to maintain this level of profitability. Utah, the coal operation bought from General Electric, earned A$62m. Utah made no contribution in the first half of last year.

TSI purchase

Television Services International, a USM-quoted film and video production company, is paying £2.1 million for the lossmaking London video production group Molinare, which states it is under-capitalized and continuing to incur losses.

Japanese prefer foreign cars

By John Lawless

Japanese motorists have done a U-turn and are now said to prefer foreign cars. A survey of Japanese consumer taste by the Hakuhodo Institute of Life and Living – just published by the Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) – says: "Youth had the greater desire for imports as a whole." But it immediately added : "Cars were among the most desired items for all ages."

That news will come as a surprise to the likes of BL who, until recently, faced the sort of tough testing for imported cars which formed a hidden trade barrier to imports. Japanese consumers were encouraged to want domestically-produced models and were happy to own them – but the survey suggests that vehicles from abroad have now regained the snob appeal they had more than a decade ago. However, Japanese car makers are still outselling their British competitors in the two-way trade in road vehicles by almost 60 to one.

British sales to Japan were worth just £13.7 million in the first nine months of this year, with vehicles ranking as our 19th best export. For Japan, vehicle exports to Britain were worth £725 million in that period – almost £300 million ahead of that country's second biggest selling item, telecommunications and sound equipment.

Two-way business between the two countries topped £3.5 billion between January and September, but the year is certain to close with a Japanese trade surplus worth much more than that. British sales have risen by 15.1 per cent, about four per cent more than imports from Japan.

Espley chief dismissed

Espley Trust, the Midlands property group, has sacked Mr Ron Shuck, the managing director, and threatened legal action after an investigation into £3 million of land bought in Scotland. Mr Shuck, who has been suspended since October, was running the company when the deal was done.

Espley's chairman, "company doctor" Mr Ronnie Aitken said yesterday the board had taken advice of leading counsel and had instructed its solicitors to "institute proceedings against Mr Shuck and others".

The Scottish deal was done partly in cash and partly through a share placing.

Mr Shuck's solicitor, Mr Cyril Alfille, said he could not comment on the statement from Espley "at this stage". Espley shares were unchanged in the stock market at 13p.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	924.30 (-6.0)
FT-A All Share	N/A
FT Govt Securities	81.9 (+0.02)
FT-SE 100	1024.7 (-2.5)
Bargains	22.518
Datastream USM	103.39 (-0.99)
New York	
Dow Jones	1197.65 (-5.83)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	11,474.31 (-39.84)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	1198.59 (+14.17)
Amsterdam:	181.0 (+0.3)
Sidney: AO	719.7 (+2.2)
Frankfurt:	
Commerzbank	1063.0 (+1.9)
Brussels:	
General	157.50 (+0.25)
Paris: CAC	180.9 (-0.4)

GOLD

London fixing:
am $308.85 pm $311.
close $310.50-$311.25 (£264.50-265.25)
New York: $308.90
Comex (latest)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Assam Dooars	£10.25 +£5
Western Dooars	750 +347
Howard & Wyndham N/V	4½ +1
Williamson Tea	512 +82
SelecTV	13 +2
Gomme Hldgs	34 +5
Ass Hotels	4 +½
C. H. Bailey	23¾ +2¾
Leyland Paints	31½ +3½
Penine Res	31 +3
Sabina	29 +3
J. Billam	81 +8
Coronation Syn	44 +4
FALLS:	
Barbican Hldgs	3½ -1½
Rotaprint	5½ -1½
MJI Corp	9 -2
Barget	11 -2
Inter Pets	130 -18
Interview ord	8 -1
ERF (Hldgs)	37 -4
Resource Tech	47 -5
Bula Res	10 -1
Eglinton	33 -5
Am Oil Field	26 -2
Oliver Pros & Mng	175 -15

CURRENCIES

London:
£: $1.1735 (+0.0072)
£: DM 3.6535 (+0.0190)
£: SwFr 3.0125 (+0.02)
£: FFr 11.1850 (+0.06)
£: Yen 290.75 (+1.90)
£ Index: 73.2 (+0.2)

New York:
£: $1.1740
$: DM 3.1150
$ Index: 143.5 (+0.1)

INTEREST RATES

London:
Bank Base: 9¾-9½%
3-month Interbank 10-9 15/16%
3-month eligible bills 9⅝-9½%
buying rate

US:
Prime Rate 10.75%
Federal Funds 8%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.78-7.74%
Long bond 103-103½%

WALL STREET

	Dec 20	Dec 19
AMF Inc	14¾	14¾
AMR	35⅞	36⅞
Allied Corp	34⅞	34⅞
Allied Stores	50⅞	52
Allis Chalmers	5⅜	5⅞
Alcoa	36½	36⅝
Amax Inc	16⅛	16⅝
Amerada Hess	24⅝	24¼
Am Brands	64⅛	64⅝
Am Broadcast	62⅞	61⅝
Am Can	51⅛	51⅞
Am Cyanamid	48	48⅝
Am Elec Power	21⅛	20⅞
Am Home	52⅝	52⅝
Am Motors	3⅝	3⅝
Am Nat Res	38¼	38
Am Standard	30⅝	31½
Am Telephone	19¼	18¾
Armco Steel	9½	10
Asarco	19⅝	19½
Ashland Oil	24½	24⅞
Atlntc Richfield	43⅛	43⅛
Avco	48⅞	48⅞
Avon Products	21⅜	21⅞
Bankers Tst NY	56⅛	57¾
Bank of America	18¼	18
Bank of Boston	41	41
Bank of NY	34⅝	34¾
Beatrice Foods	30	30⅛
Bethlehem Steel	17	17
Boeing	55¾	57⅛
Boise Cascade	40⅛	40⅛
Borden	63¼	63⅝
Borg Warner	20½	21¼
Bristol Myers	51½	51
BP	22	22⅝
Burlington Ind	29⅝	26½
Burlington Nthn	47	47⅝
Burroughs	56½	57⅞
Campbell Soup	71¼	71¾
Canadian Pacific	38	37⅝
Caterpillar	30⅞	31
Celanese	79	79
Central Soya	17⅛	17⅛
Champion	21⅛	20⅝
Chase Manhat	47⅝	47⅝
Chem Bank NY	33⅞	35
Chevron	30⅝	30⅝
Chrysler	30⅞	31⅛
Citicorp	36⅞	39½
Clark Equip	25	25¼
Coca Cola	63¼	63½
Colgate	24½	24⅝
CBS	72½	74⅝
Columbia Gas	32½	33¼
Combustion Eng	30½	31⅝
Comwlth Edison	28⅝	26¼
Cons Edison	30¾	30½
Cons Foods	33¼	33⅞
Cons Power	4⅝	4⅝
Control Data	34⅝	34⅝
Corning Glass	66	66⅝
CPC Intl	40⅞	41¼
Crane	34⅛	34¼
Crocker Inc	25⅛	25½
Crown Zeller	34¼	34
Dart & Kraft	85¼	85½
Deere	30⅛	30⅞
Delta Air	42⅝	43⅝
Detroit Edison	15⅝	15⅞
Digital Equip	109¼	109⅝
Disney	60¼	60½
Dow Chemical	28½	29½
Dresser Ind	18⅛	18
Duke Power	29⅝	29
Du Pont	47⅞	48½
Eastern Air	4½	4½
Eastman Kodak	70¼	71¾
Eaton Corp	51⅝	52¼
Emerson Elect	69	69¼
Evans Prod	4	4

	Dec 20	Dec 19
Exxon Corp	44	43⅝
Fed Dept Stores	51⅛	51⅛
Firestone	17⅝	17½
Fst Chicago	21⅜	22⅛
Fst Intrst Bncp	42	42⅝
Fst Penn Corp	5⅞	5⅝
Ford	44⅞	45⅜
GAF Corp	24⅞	24⅞
GTE Corp	39⅞	40⅝
Gen Corp	32⅝	32¼
Gen Dynamics	67½	67¼
Gen Electric	56⅛	56¾
Gen Foods	56¾	56⅞
Gen Mills	52	53½
Gen Motors	76⅞	77½
Gen Pub Util NY	11⅛	11⅛
Genesco	5¾	5⅝
Georgia Pacific	25¾	23⅞
Gillette	58	58
Goodrich	26	26
Goodyear	26¼	26⅝
Gould Inc	21	21⅜
Grace	40¼	40¾
Gt Atlic & Pacific	16	16½
Greyhound	23¾	23⅛
Grumman Corp	26⅝	26¼
Gulf & West	29⅝	29
Heinz H. J.	44¼	44½
Hercules	33⅝	33⅛
Honeywell	61⅜	61⅝
IC Inds	27½	28⅝
Ingersoll	43	43¼
Inland Steel	21¼	20⅞
IBM	122⅜	123
Int Harvester	8¼	8½
INCO	11¾	11½
Int Paper	53¾	52⅝
Int Tel Tel	29⅝	29¼
Irving Bank	32¼	32⅝
Jim Walter	31⅛	32⅛
Johnson & John	36⅝	36⅞
Kaiser Alumin	13⅞	14
Kerr McGee	28⅞	28½
Kimberly Clark	47½	47⅝
K Mart	35½	35⅞
Kroger	38⅝	38⅝
L.T.V. Corp	10	9⅞
Litton	65⅝	65¾
Lockheed	43⅛	44½
Lucky Stores	17½	17¾
Manuf Hanover	36¼	36⅝
Manville Cp	5⅞	6
Mapco	28⅛	28⅝
Marine Midland	27¼	28¾
Martin Marietta	43¼	43½
McDonnell	68½	69¼
Mead	35	35½
Merck	92¼	92¾
Minnesota Mng	79¼	80
Mobil Oil	26⅛	25¾
Monsanto	42¾	42½
Morgan J. P.	78	79⅝
Motorola	34⅛	34¾
NCR Corp	25¾	26½
NL Industries	10⅞	11
Nabisco	52⅛	52⅛
Nat Distillers	25½	25¾
Nat Med Ent	24	23½
Norfolk South	57½	57½
NW Bancorp	24½	24
Occidental Pet	27¼	28
Ogden	28	27⅞
Olin Corp	31⅞	32
Owens-Illinois	39½	39¾
Pacific Gas Elec	16⅞	17
Pan Am	4⅝	4⅞
Penney J. C.	46⅛	47⅝
Pennzoil	44¼	44⅝
Pepsico	41½	42¼
Pfizer	40⅝	41¼
Phelps Dodge	13¾	13⅞

	Dec 20	Dec 19
Philip Morris	78⅝	80½
Phillips Petrol	56⅛	52⅝
Polaroid	28	28¼
PPG Ind	33	33¼
Proctor Gamble	57⅞	58½
Pub Ser El & Gas	27	28⅝
Raytheon	41½	41⅝
RCA Corp	38	36⅝
Reynolds Ind	70½	70⅝
Reynolds Metal	34¼	34¼
Rockwell Int	29¾	30⅝
Royal Dutch	48	48¼
Safeways	28⅝	28⅝
SFE Sopac	25⅝	25½
SCM	42⅝	42⅞
Schlumberger	37⅞	36½
Scott Paper	34¼	33⅞
Seagram	39⅝	39¾
Sears Roebuck	31¾	32
Shell Oil	56⅞	55¾
Shell Trans	29⅞	30⅝
Signal Co	32⅝	32⅝
Singer	30	30
Smithkline Beck	52⅝	53
Sony	14⅝	14¾
Sth Cal Edison	23⅝	23½
Sperry Corp	40¼	40¼
Std Oil Indiana	52⅝	51⅛
Std Oil Ohio	41	41
Sterling Drug	28½	28¼
Stevens J. P.	17½	17¾
Sun Comp	46⅝	47⅝
Teledyne	251¾	252⅝
Tenneco	35¾	36⅛
Texaco	33⅝	33⅝
Texas East Corp	28⅝	28⅝
Texas Inst	116¾	117⅝
Texas Utilities	25¾	25¾
Textron	33	32⅝
TWA	30½	31
Travelers Corp	36⅝	37¼
TRW Inc	30½	72
UAL Inc	45	45
Union Carbide	36½	35⅝
Unocal	35	35⅞
Un Pacific Corp	40¼	41⅛
Uniroyal	13⅞	13¾
United Brands	10⅞	10⅝
US Steel	25⅛	25½
Utd Technol	37⅞	37⅝
Wachovia	28½	29⅝
Warner Lambert	35¾	35⅝
Wells Fargo	47¾	47⅞
Westnghse Elec	26⅛	26¼
Weyerhauser	29¾	29⅝
Whirlpool	44¾	44¾
Woolworth	36⅞	37⅝
Xerox Corp	38⅝	38¼
Zenith	21⅛	21¼
CANADIAN PRICES		
Abitibi	34	31⅝
Alcan Alumin	37	37
Algoma Steel	18⅝	18⅝
Bell Telephone	35⅝	35⅝
Can Pacific	49¾	49⅝
Cominco	12⅝	12⅝
Cons Bathurst	15⅞	15¾
Gulf Oil	15½	15⅝
Hawker/Sid Can	17	17
Hudson Bay Min	6¼	6⅝
Imasco	47⅝	47⅝
Imperial Oil	42½	42¾
Int Pipe	35	35
Mass.-Fergsn	3.60	3.70
Royal Trustco	18⅝	17½
Seagram	51	50⅞
Steel Co	20⅛	20⅝
Thomson N 'A'	52	51
Walker Hiram	23¾	24¼
WCT	15⅛	15

● Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

Dow takes early fall

New York (AP Dow-Jones). – share moved lower in early trading. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 3 points while the transportation index was down 3½.

Mr James joyce, associate research director at Prescott Ball & Turben, said the economic news continued mixed with the morninig's durable goods orders showing surprising strength. He added that, most other recent releases, including capital spending and consumer prices, suggested continued slow growth. And interest rates were still showing a downward trend.

Market leaders remained firmly in the utilities and other defensive sectors, he said.

International Business Machines was unchanged at 122⅜, General Electric 56⅛ unchanged, General Motors 76⅝ down ¼ Teledyne 252¾ up 1, Texas Instruments 115¾ down 1, Union Carbide 37¼ up ¾, Honeywell 61⅜ down ⅜ and Digital Equipment 108½ down ¾.

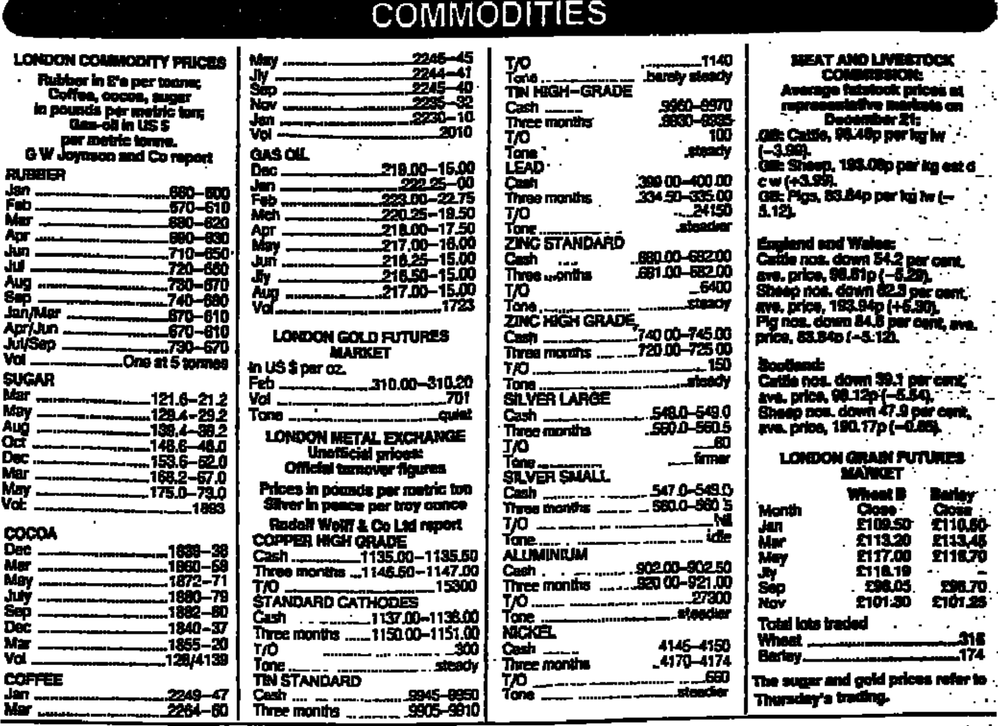
Procter & Gamble was down 1¼ to 56⅞. Chicargo Milwaukee down 2¼ to 185½, Commodore International down 1⅛ to 19⅛. Federal Express down 1 at 32⅛, ASA up 1⅜ to 47½, Tidewater up 3½ to 23⅛ and G. D. Searle up 1¼ to 63⅞.

Wang Laboratories class B stock was down ⅜ on the American exchange to 25¼ after a drop of 1½ on Thursday when it was the most axtive issue.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Three Month Sterling					
Mar 85	89.90	89.96	89.90	89.94	439
Jun 85	89.85	89.85	89.85	89.85	50
Sep 85	89.70	89.70	89.67	89.70	4
Dec 85	NT			89.55	0
Mar 85	NT			89.44	
Previous day's total open interest 5299					
Three Month Eurodollar					
Mar 85	90.63	90.65	90.55	90.62	2323
Jun 85	90.02	90.07	89.98	90.06	170
Sep 85	89.53	89.53	89.53	89.57	7
Dec 85	89.09	89.09	89.09	89.18	7
Mar 85	88.69	88.69	88.69	88.79	7
Previous day's total open interest 9019					
US Treasury Bond					
Mar 85	72-11	72-18	72-07	72-08	1579
Jun 85	NT			71-17	
Sep 85	NT				
Dec 85	NT				
Previous day's total open interest 1411					
Long Gilt					
Dec 84	107-20	107-22	107-17	107-24	265
Mar 85	107-01	107-09	106-29	107-09	981
Jun 85	106-17	106-17	106-17	106-22	45
Sep 85	NT			109-15	
Dec 85	NT			109-03	
Previous day's total open interest 3778					
FT-SE 100					
Dec 84	120.60	120.75	120.30	120.50	77
Mar 85	120.85	121.05	120.60	120.75	82
Jun 85	NT			120.90	0
Previous day's total open interest 1085					

COMMODITIES



LONDON COMMODITY PRICES
Rubber in £'s per tonne; Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per metric ton; Gas-oil in US $ per metric tonne.
G W Joynson and Co report

RUBBER	
Jan	880-800
Feb	670-610
Mar	680-620
Apr	690-630
Jun	710-650
Jul	720-660
Aug	750-670
Sep	740-680
Jan/Mar	670-610
Apr/Jun	670-610
Jul/Sep	730-670
Vol	One at 5 tonnes
SUGAR	
Mar	121.6-21.2
May	128.4-29.2
Aug	138.4-38.2
Oct	148.6-48.0
Dec	153.6-52.0
Mar	168.2-67.0
May	175.0-73.0
Vol	1893
COCOA	
Dec	1839-38
Mar	1860-58
May	1872-71
July	1880-79
Sep	1882-80
Dec	1840-37
Mar	1855-20
Vol	128/4139
COFFEE	
Jan	2249-47
Mar	2264-60
May	2246-45
Jly	2244-41
Sep	2245-40
Nov	2235-32
Jan	2230-10
Vol	2010
GAS OIL	
Dec	219.00-15.00
Jan	222.25-00
Feb	223.00-22.75
Mch	220.25-19.50
Apr	218.00-17.50
May	217.00-16.00
Jun	216.25-15.00
Jly	216.50-15.00
Aug	217.00-15.00
Vol	1723

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET
In US $ per oz.

Feb	310.00-310.20
Vol	701
Tone	quiet

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Unofficial prices: Official turnover figures
Prices in pounds per metric ton
Silver in pence per troy ounce
Rudolf Wolff & Co Ltd report

COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Cash	1135.00-1135.50
Three months	1146.50-1147.00
T/O	15300
STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	1137.00-1138.00
Three months	1150.00-1151.00
T/O	300
Tone	steady
TIN STANDARD	
Cash	9945-9950
Three months	9905-9910
T/O	1140
Tone	barely steady
TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	9960-9970
Three months	9930-9935
T/O	100
Tone	steady
LEAD	
Cash	399.00-400.00
Three months	334.50-335.00
T/O	24150
Tone	steadier
ZINC STANDARD	
Cash	680.00-682.00
Three months	681.00-682.00
T/O	6400
Tone	steady
ZINC HIGH GRADE	
Cash	740.00-745.00
Three months	720.00-725.00
T/O	150
Tone	steady
SILVER LARGE	
Cash	548.0-549.0
Three months	560.0-560.5
T/O	60
Tone	firmer
SILVER SMALL	
Cash	547.0-549.0
Three months	560.0-560.5
T/O	Nil
Tone	idle
ALUMINIUM	
Cash	902.00-902.50
Three months	920.00-921.00
T/O	27300
Tone	steadier
NICKEL	
Cash	4145-4150
Three months	4170-4174
T/O	660
Tone	steadier

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION:
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 21:
GB: Cattle, 98.48p per kg lw (–3.99).
GB: Sheep, 193.08p per kg est d c w (+3.99).
GB: Pigs, 83.84p per kg lw (–5.12).

England and Wales:
Cattle nos. down 54.2 per cent, ave. price, 98.81p (–5.29).
Sheep nos. down 82.3 per cent, ave. price, 193.94p (+5.90).
Pig nos. down 84.8 per cent, ave. price, 83.84p (–5.12).

Scotland:
Cattle nos. down 39.1 per cent, ave. price, 98.12p (–5.64).
Sheep nos. down 47.9 per cent, ave. price, 190.17p (–0.85).

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES MARKET

Month	Wheat B Close	Barley Close
Jan	£109.50	£110.60
Mar	£113.20	£113.45
May	£117.00	£118.70
Jly	£118.19	–
Sep	£98.05	£98.70
Nov	£101.30	£101.25

Total lots traded
Wheat 318
Barley 174

The sugar and gold prices refer to Thursday's trading.

Grovebell wins battle for Atlanta

By Philip Robinson

Mr Vasant Advani has won control of Atlanta Investment Trust. His Grovebell Group announced yesterday that it now had acceptances for a £5.9 million takeover bid from holders of 50.52 per cent of the Atlanta shares. It has taken just two days for Mr Advani's increased offer to give him victory.

On Thursday evening Grovebell had received acceptances from holders of 44.58 per cent of the ordinary shares and 8.59 per cent of the preference shares. Grovebell already has influence over 5.94 per cent.

Holders of 750,000 shares have elected to take Grovebell's 135p a share cash offer which will close on January 8. The rest have accepted the 17 Grovebell shares plus 15p cash for every two Atlanta shares held.

The Atlanta board, headed by Mr Anthony Cole, did not respond in a formal shareholders' letter to Grovebell's second offer before the bid was declared unconditional. Guinness Mahon, its merchant bnk advisers said that the board would need time to consider it.

The Atlanta board described the first bid as "inadequate

Atlanta's figures, released last week, showed pretax revenue for 1984 down from £285,000 to £170,000. Mr Cole said that this reflected the start-up costs of the group's financial services group.

The bid was fiercly contested. In the early stages Atlanta took Statham Duff Stoop, Grovebell's stockbroker, to the High Court.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
108	77	Glasgow Stock	108	+1	2.8	2.5	..
252	187	Globe	249	–2	12.8	5.2	..
215	178	Greenfriar	207	..	1.9	0.9	..
250	187½	Gresham House	235	..	5.7	2.4	..
142	114	Hambros	142	..	5.4	3.8	..
229	187	Hill (P)	227	+1	13.2	5.8	..
498	390	Invest-in Success	498	..	7.8	1.5	..
216	162	Inv Cap	216	–2	5.1	2.4	..
64½	43	Japan Assets	58½	–½	0.1	0.1	..
[illegible]							

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
79	59	Tr City Of Lon Dfd	77	–1	4.4b	5.8	
143	121	Tr Ind & Gen	140	–1	4.8b	3.4	
250	201	Tr Natural Res	240	..	10.7	4.5	..
178	130	Tr North America	171	+1	4.8b	2.8	..
281	192	Tr Pacific Basin	281	+1	2.9b	1.0	..
139	107	Tr Property	137	–1	4.7	3.4	..
89	69	Tr Tech	89	–1	2.4	2.7	..
128	98	Tr Trustees	128	–2	4.9	3.9	..
[illegible]							

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							
90		Eng Assoc	98	..	4.3	4.4	13.9
363		Exco	553	..	11.8	2.1	20.9
53		Exploration	65	..	4.5	6.9	10.6
9		First Charlotte	11	..	0.1	0.8	..
78		Frost (JJ & D)	82	..	4.0	4.9	12.1
42		Goode (D & M)	44	..	1.8	4.1	7.3
357		Henderson Admin	590	+10	15.7	2.8	11.9
590		M & G	729	..	35.7	5.0	17.8
215		Martin (RP)	395	+10	17.9	4.8	9.3
247		Mercantile House	319	+15	17.1	5.4	8.1
285		Mills & Allen	358	..	20.0	5.6	10.9
79		Smith Brothers	103	+1	7.9	7.8	4.4
175		Yule Catto	198	–4	7.8	4.0	8.9

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

Prev W'end Offer	Ch'ge on Week	Trust	Bid	Current Offer	Yield
		Abbey Unit Trust Managers			
		1-3 St Pauls Churchyard EC4P 4DX		01-236 1633	
121.2	+4.3	American Growth	118.8	125.5	1.51
78.8	+0.1	Cmdty & Energy	72.8	78.9	2.83
67.9	+0.2	UK Growth	63.3	68.1e	2.56
107.5	–0.1	General	100.4	107.4	2.85
119.6	–0.3	Gilt & Fixed Int	112.2	118.7e	10.11
176.0	+2.6	Japan	167.0	178.6e	..
		Capel (James) Management Ltd.			
		100 Old Broad St. EC2N 1BQ.		01-588 6010	
249.1	+3.6	Capital Fund (3)	240.0	252.7	2.70
187.7	+0.1	Income Fnd (3)	181.2	190.8	5.86
231.5	+10.2	Nth Amer Fnd	229.6	241.7	1.10
		Cater Allen Unit trust Managers			
		1 King William St. EC4N 7AU		01-623 6314	
109.0	–0.8	Gilt Trust	101.9	106.2e	11.22
[illegible]					

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Money tended to be tight for much of the session, though the shortage was of no great proportions. Interbank opened on 9⅜ – ¼ per cent, then moved up to 9⅝ – ⅜ per cent and held in that area for much of the morning. It registered 9⅝ – ½ per cent in the afternoon, but turned somewhat easier towards the finish, dipping to 8 – 7 per cent and closing on a rather wide 9 – 6 per cent.

Business was rather slack in the periods.

Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 9¼-9½
Finance House 10½
Discount Market Loans%
Overnight: High 9⅜ Low 5
Week fixed: 9¼-9

Treasury Bills (Discount %)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	9⅝	2 months	9¼
3 months	9⅝	3 months	9⅛

Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)

1 month	9⅝-9⅜	2 months	9⅝-9¼
3 months	9⅝-9⅜	6 months	9½-9⅜

Trade Bills (Discount %)

1 month	10⅛	2 months	9⅞
3 months	9⅞	6 months	10⅛

Interbank (%)
Overnight: open 9½-9⅜ close 9-6

1 week	9½-9	6 months	10⅛-10⅛
1 month	9⅝-9½	9 months	10¼-10⅛
3 months	10-9⅞	12 months	10⅛-10⅛

Local Authority Bonds (%)

1 month	10¼-9⅞	2 months	10¼-9⅞
3 months	10¼-9⅞	6 months	10⅛-9⅞
9 months	10⅛-10	12 months	10⅛-9⅞

Sterling CDs (%)

1 month	9⅝-9½	3 months	9⅞-9¾
6 months	9⅞-9¾	12 months	9⅞-9⅞

Dollar CDs (%)

1 month	8.35-8.25	3 months	8.60-8.40
6 months	8.90-8.80	12 months	9.70-9.50

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period 3 November, 1984 to 4 December, 1984, inclusive: 9.904 per cent.

TREASURY BILL TENDER

Applications: £428.15m	allotted £100m
Bids at: £97.725%	received 28%
Last week: £97.73%	received 26%
Average rate: 9.1133%	Last week: 9.0805%
Next week: £100m	replace £100m

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

Dollar		call	8¼-7¼
7 days	8⅛-8⅛	1 month	8⅝-8¼
3 months	8⅛-8⅝	6 months	9⅛-9⅛
Deutschmark		call	5⅞-4⅞
7 days	6⅛-5⅞	1 month	5⅛-5⅞
3 months	5⅞-5⅞	6 months	5⅞-5⅞
[illegible]			
Yen		call	6⅞-5⅞
7 days	6⅞-6⅞	1 month	5½-5
3 months	5-4⅞	6 months	4⅞-4⅞

GOLD

Krugerrand* (per coin):
$319.50-321 (£272-273.50)
Sovereigns* (new):
$72-73 (£61.25-62.75)
*Excludes VAT

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

In much calmer conditions on foreign exchange markets, currency movements were contained within narrow bands.

The pound reflecting some short covering ahead of the weekend and the Christmas holiday and recovered some lost ground at 1.1735 – a gain of 72 points on the day. There were gains too against most main currencies, including the D-mark at 3.6520 (3.6210), while its trade-weighted index at the final calculation reached 73.2 compared with 73.0 at Thursday's close.

Dealers said the decision by Opec to adjourn talks on its price structure until next week took some of the pressure off the pound.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

	Market rates day's range December 21	Market rates close December 21	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.1675-1.1765	$1.1720-1.1750	0.12-0.10c prem	0.36-0.32c prem
Montreal	$1.5380-1.5475	$1.5418-1.5463	0.05-0.09c disc	0.02-0.09c disc
Amsterdam	4.1103-4.1489fl	4.1196-11.1419fl	1⅝-1¼c prem	4⅜-4c prem
Brussels	73.10-73.70f	73.43-73.68f	4-6c disc	10-19c disc
Copenhagen	13.0500-13.1020k	13.0580-13.1012k	2⅝-3½ore disc	5¼-6¼ore disc
Dublin	1.1675-1.1744p	1.1716-1.1737p	50-65p disc	132-162p disc
Frankfurt	3.6403-3.6636m	3.6471-3.6631m	1⅝-1½pf prem	3⅞-3½pf prem
Lisbon	194.90-197.20e	195.43-197.11e	180-595e disc	520-1645e disc
Madrid	201.30-202.95p	201.94-202.92p	60-65p disc	130-155p disc
Milan	2239.00-2257.70lr	2242.04-2253.65lr	7-11lr disc	22-28lr disc
Oslo	10.5440-10.6225k	10.5880-10.6220k	2⅝-3¼ore disc	7¼-8¼ore disc
Paris	11.1480-11.2476f	11.1574-11.2095f	⅞-1⅛c disc	1⅝-2⅞c disc
Stockholm	10.4190-10.4840k	10.4507-10.4834k	1⅝-1⅛ore prem	4⅝-5ore disc
Tokyo	289.46-291.53y	290.28-291.17y	1-⅞y prem	2⅝-2⅝y prem
Vienna	25.55-25.80sch	25.71-25.79sch	5-2⅞gro prem	15½-10⅝gro prem
Zurich	2.9913-3.0180f	3.0015-3.0151f	1½-1⅛c prem	3⅝-3½c prem

Sterling index compared with 1975 was up 0.2 at 73.2 (day's range 73.2-73.1).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina peso*	191.87-192.19
Australia dollar	1.4067-1.4093
Bahrain dinar	0.4390-0.4430
Brazil cruzeiro*	3553-3574
Cyprus pound	0.7375-0.7475
Finland markka	7.5770-7.5770
Greece drachma	148.05-150.05
Hong Kong dollar	9.1867-9.2040
India rupee	14.31-14.51
Iraq dinar	n.a.
Kuwait dinar (KD)	0.3530-0.3570
Malaysia dollar	2.8334-2.8403
Mexico peso	230-255
New Zealand dollar	2.4291-2.4475
Saudi Arabia riyal	4.1665-4.1865
Singapore dollar	2.5516-2.5584
South Africa rand	2.2805-2.2888
United Arab Emirates dirham	4.2760-4.3160

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	0.9970-0.9990
Singapore	2.1725-2.1755
Malaysia	2.4125-2.4155
Australia	0.8345-0.8355
Canada	1.3153-1.3158
Sweden	8.8900-8.9200
Norway	9.0800-9.0300
Denmark	11.1500-11.1600
West Germany	3.1130-3.1160
Switzerland	2.5620-2.5670
Netherlands	3.5150-3.5200
France	9.5200-9.5300
Japan	247.70-247.90
Italy	1912-1917
Belgium(Comm)	62.50-62.60
Hong Kong	7.8235-7.8265
Portugal	166.00-168.50
Spain	172.50-177.00
Austria	21.94-21.96

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Extel. *Lloyds Bank International.

COMPANY NEWS

● ROTAPRINT: Results for 26 weeks to Sept. 29. No interim (nil). In spite of the historical improvement in the second half of each year, the size of this half year's loss makes it unrealistic to anticipate a profit for the full twelve months, and in consequence payment of arrears on the preference shares is not envisaged in the near future. (Figs in £000). Sales 7054 (7394). Trading loss 306 (loss 65). Pretax loss 443 (loss 165).

● BROKEN HILL: Group net operating profit $A341.5 million ($A282.5m) for half-year to November 30. Turnover $A3.46 billion ($A2.56 billion). Investment and other income $A83.7m ($A51.7m). Earnings per $1.00 share 37.7 cents (41.1). Previously announced and paid interim dividend 25 cents per $2.00 share (20).

● C A SPERATI (THE SPECIAL AGENCY): No dividend (nil) for year to Oct 31. Turnover £504,023 (£485,981). Pretax profit £15,973 (£5,147). Tax £100 (Cdt £304). EPS 15.87p (5.45p).

CHARTER TRUST AND AGENCY: Final 1.4p, making 2.15p (1.975p) for year to Nov 30. (Figs in £000). Gross investment income 2,758 (3,138). Other income 195 (143). Management and admin expenses 235 (218). Tax 881 (827). EPS 2.16p (1.99p).

INTL SIGNAL AND CONTROL: ISC's wholly owned Italian subsidiary, Findep, has agreed with Bastogi IRBS of Milan to purchase its wholly owned offshoot SI.EL., which produces high-technology electronic communication systems for airborne, naval, land and space application. Findep will purchase SI.EL for about £34 million cash and a further payment of up to about £1.8 million.

NORSK HYDRO is to acquire Borregaard's share in the Rafnes chlorine plant. Borregaard owns 50 per cent of the plant which was built in 1974 as part of the Rafnes petrochemical complex. The acquisition is part of a plan to create a more efficient ownership structure for the Rafnes facilities. Borregaard is to receive Hydro's 22 per cent shareholding in Nora Industrier in part payment, while Borregaard will transfer its 10 per cent shareholdings in Securus Industrier to Hydro.

BLACKWOOD HODGE DISPOSAL: Terms have been agreed for the acquisition by Cummins Australia of the business of BH's wholly owned subsidiary, Cummins Diesel Sales and Services, which distributes and services the products of Cummins Engine in Australia. The Australian foreign investement review board has consented. The expected consideration is $A10.7m (£7.5m).

● BRUNNER INVESTMENT TRUST: Final 1.1p, making 2p (1.825) for year to Nov 30. (Figs in £000). Total income 3,059 (2,747). Total expenses 1,239 (867).

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Access Satellite Int 5p Ord (150a)	186+2
Addison Comm 2p Ord (116a)	196+3
Alida Holdings 25p Ord (140a)	167
Appledore A & P 10p Ord (87)	90
Breakmate 10p Ord (100a)	116
CVD Inc Com Stock $0.01 (105a)	155+2
Candover Inv 25p Ord (180)	180
Checkpoint Europe 25p Ord (a)	205
Craton Lodge & Knight 1p Ord (115a)	187+5
Gabicci 5p Ord (78a)	96
Hawtal Whiting 5p Ord (197a)	253
Instem 10p Ord (145a)	225
Klark-Teknik 5p Ord (85a)	115
Media Technology 20p Ord (117a)	176-2
PSM Int 25p (140)	168+1
Penny & Giles 25p Ord (130a)	151–2
Plasmec 10p Ord (70a)	74
Shares Drug Stores 10p Ord (140a)	204+4
Stone International 20p Ord (125)	143
T & S Stores 5p Ord (a)	119
U D O Holdings 10p Ord (110a)	124
Wardle Storeys 10p (132)	166–1
Wates City of Lon Prop 25p Ord (100)	117
Williams (R) Leisure 5p Ord (20a)	22

Issue price in parentheses a Unlisted Securities. * by tender.

ISC buys high-tech Italian firm

By Jeremy Warner

International Signal & Control Group, the US defence, electronics and communications company whose shares are quoted in London, is making a $39.4 million (£33.5 million) acquisition in Italy.

It has agreed to buy SI.EL-.SPA, which produces high technology electronic communications systems for airborne, naval and space applications, from Bastogi of Milan.

SI.EL. comprises three divisions employing more than 1,500 people. One division at Pemezia near Rome, manufactures high technology naval, airborne and land-based radio communications and electronic warfare systems.

A second, in Florence, is a leader in the Italian mobile telecommunications market for police and civilian applications and also produces radio systems for air traffic control.

The third in Milan, is involved in the research and development of integrated data handling systems and scientific instruments for space vehicles.

In the year to the end of last December, the last period for which figures are available, SI.EL made operating profits of US$8.1 million (£6.9 million) on sales of $68.9 million and pretax profits amound to $3.4 million.

Mr James Guerin, chairman of ISC, said: "This is an opportunity to bring into the group companies with a complete capability in research, development and manufacturing technologies in radio frequency range for space communications and electronic warfare applications.

APPOINTMENTS

Granada Television International: Miss Vivien Wallace has joined the board.

Hoggett Bowers: Owing to the death of Mr Brian Hoggett, chairman, this position will be assumed by Mr John Featherstone.

Richards, Longstaff (Holdings): Mr J. H. Bacon and Mr J. E. Howard have been made directors of the aviation division of Richards, Longstaff (Insurance).

Samuel Montagu & Co: Mr Alan Reid, Mr Malcolm Savage, Mr Michael Stenning and Mr Lance Travellyan have been appointed executive directors.

ICI: Mr J. Trevor Harrison has been made treasurer with effect from April 1 in succession to Mr John Crowe.

Alexanders Discount: Mr Andrew Smith will be joining the board as managing director from January 21.

The Liverpool Daily Post & Echo: Mr Malcolm Murray has been appointed a non-executive director.

Biddle & Co: Mr M. A. S. Winter, Mr H. G. Arthur, Mr D. P. O'Connell and Mr G. R. Tyler will become partners from January 1.

GEISCO. Mr Daniel Schultz has been appointed vice-president and general manager, Norther Europe Area.

Imperial Software Technology: Mr Derek Maclaren has been elected chairman and succeeds Professor Manny Lehman.

Coletex: Mr G R Steer has been appointed financial directore and controller. Mr D J Digby Harper bocomes marketing director.

Oberon International: Dr Simon Hochhauser has been made a non-executive director.

Cathy Pacific Airways: Mr H B Olsen has become commercial director.

Munsell Consulting Engineers: Mr David Lee has been appointed chairman and Mr Paul Norman has become managing director.

John Laing: Mr Peter Johnson is named finance director and director of John Laing plc. Mr John A Renshaw is made chairman of O.C. Summers and SBD Construction Products.

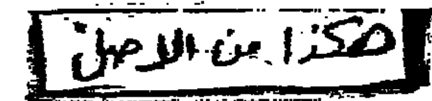
The Savoy Hotel: Sir George Christie will join the board on January 1.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9½%
Adam & Company	9½%
Barclays	9¾%
BCCI	9½%
Citibank Savings †	10¾%
Consolidated Crds	9¾%
Continental Trust	9½%
C. Hoare & Co *	9½%
Lloyds Bank	9½%
Midland Bank	9½%
Nat Westminster	9½%
TSB	9½%
Williams & Glyn's	9½%
Citibank NA	9½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6¼%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 7¼%; £50,000 and over, 8%.



STOCK MARKET REPORT

Tea is the toast as index falters

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Tea was the share flavour of the day in the stock market yesterday. As champagne flowed in the pre-Christmas run-up, the shares of a batch of little known tea companies surged ahead.

Assam Dooars jumped £5 to £10.25p and **Western Dooars** advanced 347p to £7.50p.

Behind the gains were suggestions that Carmellia Investments, which is headed by shy Canadian millionaire Mr Gordon Fox, had indirectly increased its shareholding in Assam and Western, two of its *satellites*.

The price paid was considerably above the then ruling stock market level. Hence the upsurge in Assam and Western shares.

Mr Fox's move is seen by some as indicating a re-rating of the entire tea sector. With such thoughts in mind the shares of Eastern Produce and Camellia itself moved ahead.

Eastern, which following the advance in tea prices recently announced interim profits of £8,578,000 against £3,355,000 rose 18p to 333p. Camellia was up nearly £1 at £18.

Tea commodity prices have moved ahead strongly in the past year. Adverse weather conditions in tea growing lands have cut crops at a time when world wide demand is growing. Tea is still Britain's leading drink with two and a quarter cups consumed to every one cup of coffee.

Camellia owns just under 50 per cent of the *Laurie Group*, the plantation group which in turn has almost 50 per of both Assam and Western. Just to confuse matters even further Assam and Western have substantial stakes in each other.

Away from the brew-up in tea plantation shares, the stock market finished its Christmas run-up account on a flat note.

But a late splash of new time buying lifted prices from their lowest levels of the day. At the close the FT 30 share index was down 6 points at 924.3 points and the FT-SE share index was 1,204.7 points, off 2.5 points.

So shares ended what was a record breaking account looking breathless and uncertain. But trading was exceedingly thin. Many market men still expect the FT 30 share index to break through the 1,000 points mark within the first few months of next year.

Cadbury-Schweppes shares lost some of their sweetness yesterday as City analysts heard of lower-than-expected confectionery sales this Christmas. the price slipped 3p to 153p as some purposeful selling was included in the general market downturn.

Babcock International drifted 3p lower to 145p following the recent downgrading of profits forecasts from City analyists. But Westland, the West Country helicopter maker, regained 3p to 130p as the market got over the shock of the company's poor results a few days ago.

United Scientific Holdings keeps up its strong run after news earlier this week which could boost the electronics group's status with the Ministry of Defence. Mr Peter Levene, chairman and managing director of USH, has been appointed Chief of Defence Procurement by the Government. USH shares rose another 5p to 248p yesterday, making a 20p gain in the past week.

John Waddington slid 10p lower to 470p, still trying to find a stable trading level after the collapse recently of the bid from Mr Robert Maxwell, and the subsequent sell-off of his 23 per cent stake.

Sumrie Clothes lost 4p of recent gains, dropping to 66p, as Mr K R Humphris, a director announced that he has sold his 188,000 shares. Anglo European Investments has also disposed of 200,000 shares.

At Sale Tilney, the industrial and food manufacturing holding company, held steady at 380p as Electra Investment Trust revealed a small reduction in its stake to 14.55 per cent from 17 per cent.

Nu-Swift Industries, well-known for its fire extinguishers, rose 2p to 64p as Mr Jacques Murray announced the purchase of another 2,375,000 shares in the group. Mr Murray already controlled more than 50 per cent of the stock; he now has voting power over 55.85 per cent.

At **Britannia Arrow Holdings**, Mr Maxwell Packe has been appointed group financial controller, filling a new post at the unit trust and investment management company. The share price was unchanged at 84p, claming down from recent market interest. Speculators still wonder if United Kingdom Provident Institution is planning either to dispose of or build on its 22.75 per cent stake in Britannia.

Oil shares were again in trouble, with market men still talking of chunky blocks of shares being off-loaded. In the course of the past week several million shares of the leading companies have been sold, including four million of Shell and three million of **Britoil**.

Price falls over the period have been double-figure, with yesterday's losses of between 2p and 5p adding to the gloom.

Burmah tried to resist the trend and fell just 1p to 217p as City hopes of a takeover bid for the oil and industrial group linger.

As disclosed in The Times *on Thursday, Heron Corporation, led by Mr Gerald Ronson, has a stake in T I Group. "We think the shares are good value for money", said Mr Ronson, but he would not comment on his plans for the holding, other than to say it was for investment purposes. Heron is believed to have roughly 3.9 per cent of T I, well below the level at which Mr Ronson would have to formally declare his interest.*

Shares in **James Neill Holdings** jumped 11p to 136p as Mr Christopher Moran announced that he has 2.26 per cent of the Sheffield-based steel company. Mr Moran also has 11 per cent of Suter, which in turn now holds a further 11.99 per cent of James Neill.

Neill has asked Mr Moran if he is acting in concert with any third party in his recent share purchases. Suter recently won its bid battle for Francis Industries.

At **Fairline Boats**, chairman and managing director Mr Sam Newington added anoter 20,000 shares to his own 928,090 holding, and the price responded with a 3p rise to 53p. Mr Newington and his family controls nearly 70 per cent of the shares.

TEMPUS

How the Bank organized the gilt market in 1984

This year in the gilts market was a year for the connoisseur. To the itinerant punter, not a lot happened. The yield curve remained remarkably stable.

But for the professionals it was different. The year proved to be an exceptionally tricky one, when making money was really hard. And right at the centre of the whole market, the largest and oldest player of all – the Bank of England – found itself saddled with a well-nigh impossible task – the successful flotation of British Telecom.

The Bank faced a specific problem over British Telecom. It needed a stable equity market, and reasonable yield hopes, to get the corporate monster airborne. By definition, therefore, the Bank was obliged to pummel the gilt market into a reasonable state of optimism.

Simultaneously, a number of quite critical factors threatened to tear sentiment apart throughout the year. The Opec-US axis exemplifies this. Fears that Opec was on the point of breaking up threatened to drive sterling down on oil price worries. At the same time, the growth in US gdp affected the British rate structure, and pushed the currency ahead.

The apparently nonchalant approach of the politicians did not help. The shock announcement, overnight, that building societies would be taxed on capital gains devastated the short end of the gilt market. On February 24, low coupon shorts fell by 2 points, as the societies rushed to sell. A heavily front-end loaded PSBR for fiscal 1984-85 put extra pressure on the funding programme at a critical phase in the spring.

Industrial unrest grew throughout the year, as the miners' strike dragged on. The market periodically panicked. The quality of official statistics slumped, in line with the progressive deterioration in the earnings outlook. Market scepticism about familiar statistical benchmarks grew.

Finally, would the institutions actually have enough cash to buy the stock, when the time was ripe, given the countervailing appeal of the US market?

The Bank solved these problems fairly systematically. Some form of exchange controls may well have been invoked, proscribing institutions from investing abroad. Cash balances built up rapidly to nearly 50 per cent of total cash flow for institutions.

Reserves barely changed throughout the year. Perhaps the frequent issue of Fotra stocks–free of tax to overseas residents–may have helped. In broad terms, this was the first time such stocks had been issued since 1977.

The Bank was obliged to run a heavy funding programme, not least because of the expansionary contribution to the monetary aggregates of bank lending. The bulk of debt sales were affected through taplets, sold direct into the market. This enabled the Bank to avoid pricing the market, as a conventional issue would. But in each quarter, the Bank relieved the bear market construction which taplets create by making at most two conventional issues.

The strategy virtually fell apart in mid-summer. Bad money supply figures, and fears about the US growth rate combined to hit sterling and oblige a protective move in interest rates from 9¼ per cent to 12 per cent. Short yields peaked at 13$^{3}/_{16}$.

As Mr Stephen Lewis, of Phillips & Drew, points out, comparisons between index-linked and conventional gilts of similar maturities reveal rising real returns in the spring, peaking on July 30 at 5.27 per cent. The risk premium in gilts soared to around 2.45 (March: 1.18). In other words, the market was within an ace of backing off.

Thereafter, and until the BT floatation on November 28, relations between the authorities and the market changed. The Bank massaged interest rates down again, and gilts enjoyed an 11-point rally. Mr Jim Goodey, of County Bank, points out that this was the best and perhaps only time in the whole year, when the professionals could make some money. The Americans helped by easing their tough monetary stance ahead of the presidential election.

By degrees, however, it became clear that the authorities' way out of their policy contradictions would be achieved via depreciation of the currency. Sterling sagged about eight points on the trade-weighted, after May.

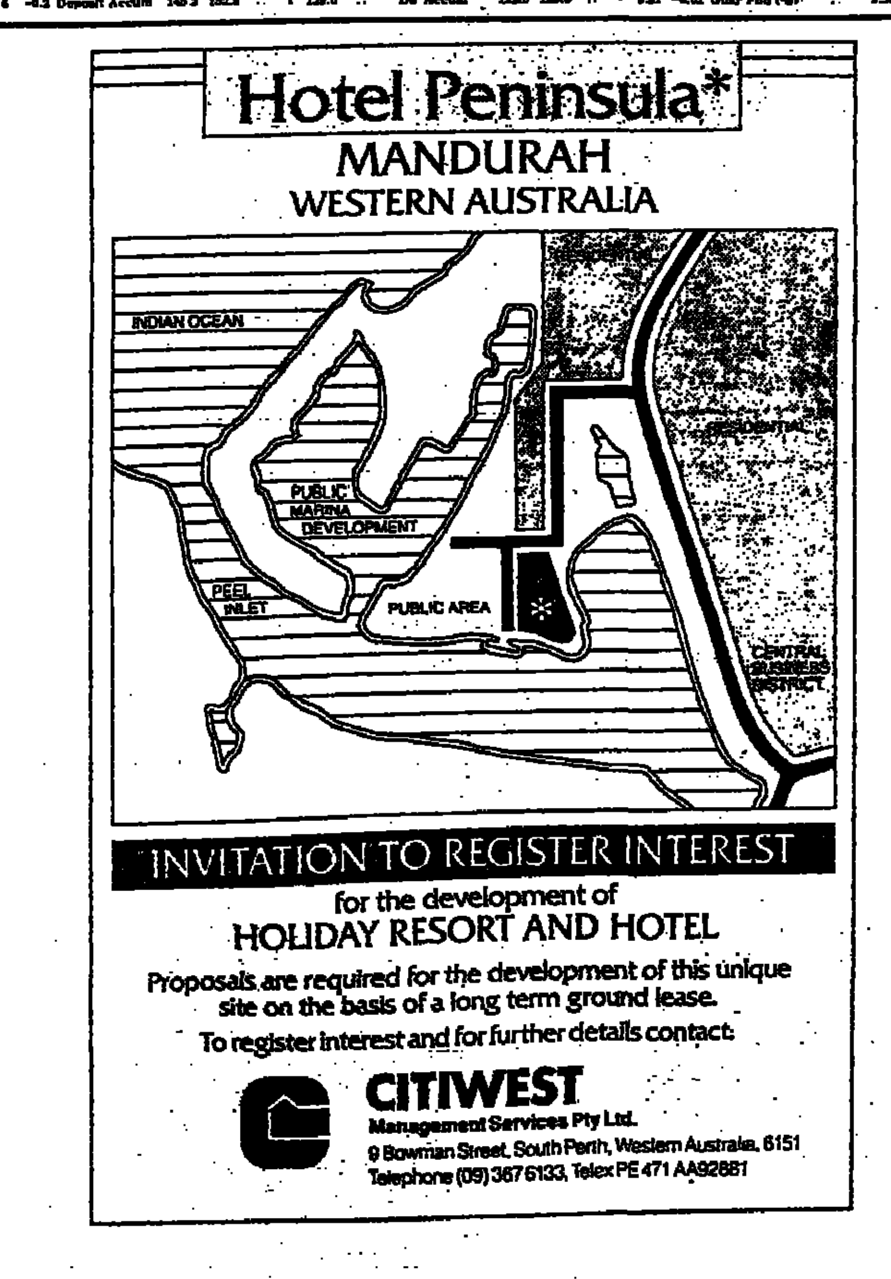
The authorities stepped up their sales of index-linked stock, neglected at the start of the year, as inflation hopes were high. Nevertheless, real returns kept rising. Plainly, the authorities succeeded in their task only with the tacit consent of the market, after the mid-summer collapse.

The scale of the effort involved in holding the market together before BT explains the subsequent collapse. It also justifies the Bank's circumspection over Johnson Mattey – a run on the banks would have been lethal before the flotation –ee and goes some way toward rationalizing the growth in the bill mountian, up over the year by £3 billion. This is the balancing item for all the paper deals elsewhere.

But just as Johnson Matthey has damaged the Bank in the public's eyes, so too has the growth in the bill mountain driven the authorities far closer for comfort to the clearers. Perhaps 1985 will reveal how the Old Lady extricated herself from these dangers

INSURANCE BONDS AND FUNDS

Prev W'end Offer	Ch'ge on Week	Trust	Bid	Current Offer	Yield
		Abbey Life Assurance Co Ltd.			
		1-3 St Pauls Churchyard, EC4P 4DX		01-248 9111	
[illegible]	+0.7	Equity Fund (3)	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	+0.7	Equity Accum(3)	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
218.0	..	Money Fund	[illegible]	218.0	..
[illegible]	+0.1	Prop Series 4	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	+0.7	Equity Series 4	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	+0.6	Man Series 4	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
183.7	..	Money Series 4	174.5	183.7	..
[illegible]	-1.9	F. Int. Series 4	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	+5.0	American Ser 4	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
216.6	..	High Inc Ser 4	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
117.4	-1.8	Index Inv Ser 4	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
		Albany Life Assurance Co., Ltd.			
		3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Herts.		0707 42311	
[illegible]	..	Equity Fnd Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	..	Fixed Int Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	..	Guar Mon Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	..	Intnl Fixed Int	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	..	Int Man Fnd Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	..	Prop Fnd Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	..	Multi Inv Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	..	Eq Pen Fnd Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	..	Fixed I Pen Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	..	Guar M Pen Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	..	Int Man Pen Fnd	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	..	Prop Pen Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	..	Multi I Pen Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
		Black Horse Life Assurance Co Ltd.			
		71 Lombard St, London, EC3 P3BS		01-623 1288	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Black Horse Bnd	..	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	[illegible]	Eq Sm Co Rec Fd	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	[illegible]	Eq Int Tech Fd	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	[illegible]	Managed Inv	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	..	Property	[illegible]	[illegible]	..
[illegible]	[illegible]	Fixed Int	[illegible]	[illegible]	..



THE ACCOUNT THAT EARNS YOU A GUARANTEED 6% P.A. TAX-FREE.

During 1985 the National Savings Ordinary Account is offering a guaranteed interest rate of 6% p.a. on balances maintained at £500 or more. Whatever happens to other interest rates, this one will not change in the coming year.

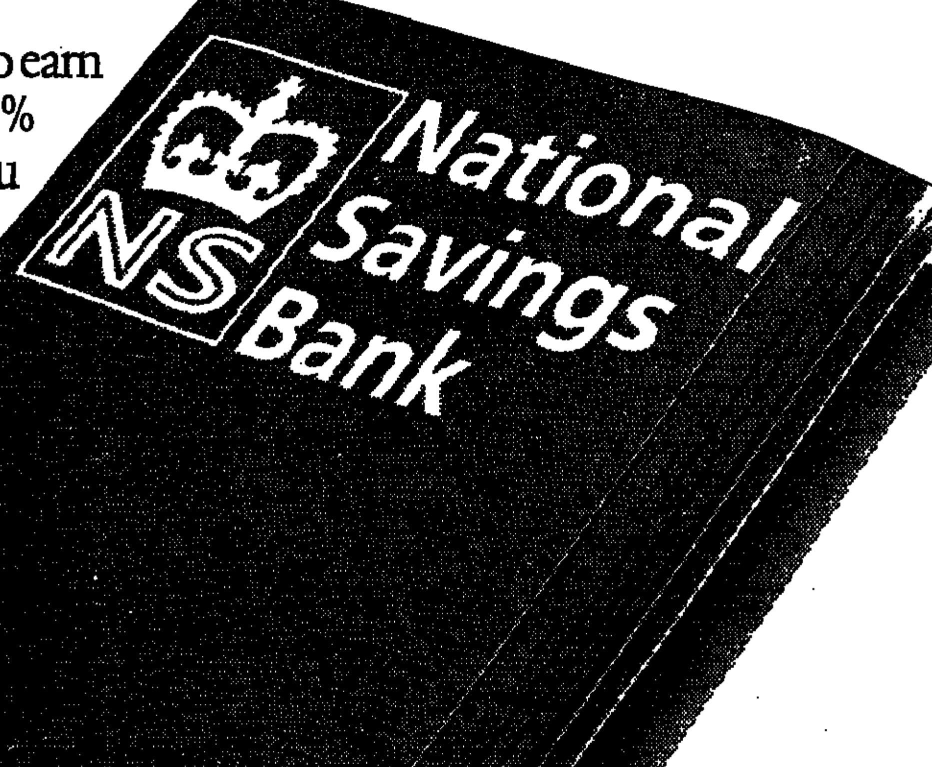
The first £70 a year of interest is free of all UK Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax.

For example, if you deposit £1,167 before the end of December 1984 and keep it in for the whole of 1985, you will earn the full tax-free benefit of £70. Husbands and wives are each entitled to this amount of tax exemption.

You get a guaranteed rate of interest and ready access to your money. To earn the guaranteed rate of 6% keep at least £500 invested from 31 December 1984 to 1 January 1986. Additional deposits will also earn the 6% rate for each whole month of 1985 that the money is earning interest. (Balances of less than £500 will earn 3%.)

Act by 31 December. You can open a National Savings Ordinary Account at the post office. If you pay by cheque, make it out to "The Post Office."

And don't forget, to earn the guaranteed rate of 6% for the whole of 1985, you must act before the end of December 1984.



THE TIMES
Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Your gain or loss
	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
1	APV	
2	Assoc Heat	
3	Bailey (CH)	
4	AGB Research	
5	Beecham	
6	Booker McConnell	
7	Dominion Int	
8	Bullough	
9	Black Arrow	
10	Broken Hill	
	BUILDING AND ROADS	
11	Lawrence (Walter)	
12	Magnet & South	
13	Amec	
14	Marchwiel	
15	Hewden-Stewart	
16	French Kier	
17	Manders	
18	Marshalls (Halifax)	
19	Arncliffe	
20	RMC	
	ELECTRICALS	
21	Cable & Wireless	
22	Dale Elec	
23	Cambridge Elec	
24	BICC	
25	STC	
26	First Castle Elec	
27	Petbow	
28	Utd Scientific	
29	Crystalate	
30	Racal Elect	
	INDUSTRIALS E-K	
31	Fobel	
32	Gomme	
33	GKN	
34	Extel	
35	Johnson Cleaners	
36	Harris (Philip)	
37	GEI (Int)	
38	Haden	
39	Erskine House	
40	Gestetner 'A'	

 Your Daily Total

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Subdued end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Jan 11. § Contango Day, Jan 14. Settlement Day, Jan 21.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES
Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND	WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£2,000	£40,000
Claims required for +31 points	Claims required for +124 points

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
349	230	Gerrard Nat	312	..	17.1	5.6	8.2
66	45	Guinness Peat	57	+1	0.9	1.5	21.0
183	121	Hambros	153 ●	..	9.0	5.9	16.0
16	9	Do (5%)	£13 ●	..	89.6	6.9	13.6
350	235	Hill Samuel	311 ●	−2	15.4	4.9	8.6
65	46½	HK Shanghai	64½	..	..b	..	..
313	229	Joseph (Leopold)	233 ●	..	16.1	6.9	12.2
178	124	King & Shaxson	170	..	11.6	6.9	14.4
460	320	Kleinwort Benson	380	..	17.9	4.7	9.6
542	422	Lloyds	519	..	34.9	6.7	4.4
63	49	Lon Scot Fin	58	+2	3.8	6.6	10.9
42	24	Manson	24	..	1.4	6.0	9.4
428	408	Mercury Secs	406	−5	16.4	4.0	8.5
429	277	Midland	362	+3	36.4	10.1	6.0
250	183	Nat Aust Bk	246 ●	..	..	..	..
590	420	Nat West	579	−3	36.2	6.3	4.5
72	57	Ottoman	£69½	..	450	6.5	10.6
196	144	Provident	189	−1	13.6	7.2	8.1
100	72½	Rea Bros	80	..	1.8	2.2	25.9
20½	14	Royl Bnk Of Can	£19½	..	..	..	..
250	194	Royl Bnk Of Scot	250 ●	+10	12.1	4.8	8.8
908	625	Schroders	738	..	23.6	3.2	12.2
370	280	Seccombe M	320 ●	..	28.6	8.9	10.5
71	46	Smith St Aubyn	63	+2	6.4	10.2	5.7
579	442	Stand Chart	474	..	40.0	8.4	6.6
785	612	Union	718	..	48.6	6.8	11.7
64	42	Wagon	64	..	3.9	6.1	17.3
41⅞	23⅝	Wells Fargo	£40¾	−⅛	..	..	..
255	195	Wintrust	240	..	6.1	2.8	16.2

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
205	135	Fleet	195	+1	7.1	3.7	14.2
265	170	Haynes Publishing	285		17.1	6.0	16.6
173	135	Home Counties	140		..	..	..
173	141	Independent	147		12.0	8.5	..
522	390	Int Thomson	512 ●	..	14.0	2.7	18.9
750	410	Link House	738	−7	22.4a	3.0	17.5
242	192	Liverpool	225		16.0	7.0	10.6
500	390	News International	500		12.1	2.4	..
885	640	Octopus	840		13.7	1.6	33.6
175	142	Portsmouth Sund	142	..	5.7	4.0	7.3
348	265	Utd Newspapers	310	−5	20.7a	6.7	11.6
188	73	Webstars	135 ●		4.4b	3.3	16.5

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

BREWERIES

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

BUILDING AND ROADS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

CINEMAS AND TV

DRAPERY AND STORES

ELECTRICALS

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PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

PROPERTY

SHIPPING

SHOES AND LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

BOOKS

Pick of finance guides

One of the standard letters which every editor of a family finance page receives from time to time is: "Can you please recommend some good books on money/investment/tax/insurance, and the like?"

So, killing two birds with one stone, here is my selection which can also double as presents.

Top of the list must be the *Hambro Tax Guide* (Oyez Longman £12.20), the most constantly referred to book, easy t understand, comprehensive and concise.

For a readable and general view of personal finance you can't beat the 1984-5 edition of the *Which Book of Money* (Consumers' Association, £12.95) which covers everything from appealing against your rates to buying a house and insuring your life.

The third choice will cost you nothing at all as it is available free from National Savings. Called *Investing in National Savings*, it contains everything you could possibly want to know about the terms and conditions of all the National Savings securities on offer, as well as the information on back issues of National Savings certificates.

If you have ever had to help an elderly person with his finances then you could probably do with a copy of *National Welfare Benefits Handbook* (Child Poverty Action Group £3.50), which gives details of supplementary benefit, family income supplement, healthh benefits, housing and education benefits, and its sister publication, *Rights Guides to Non-Means-Tested Social Security Benefits* (Child Poverty Action Group £3.50).

Finally, with pensions so much in everyone's mind, the *Allied Hambro Pensions Guide* (Oyez Longman £11.95) is a comprehensive review of self-employed and occupational pensions schemes.

TSB

Bargain buy in the high street

Our advice not to delay opening an account with the TSB (*Family Money* December 1) could not have been more timely, with the TSB announcing this week the cut-off date of December 17 for eligibility for any preferential share offer.

A stake in the TSB could be well worth having. Since the TSBs have no share capital, every £1 subscribed in the offer for sale will go straight into the banks' coffers and improve its asset backing by the same amount. Which means whatever the flotation price, you will effectively be buying the shares at a discount.

On top of that, TSB has no exposure to foreign loans, is substantially underlent by comparison with the other high street banks and has the security of its long-standing savings and deposit base on which to build new business.

Add to this its friendlier image, huge network of 1,600 branches and 6 million personal account customers, and you have the basis of a highly profitable business. Definitely a share to go for.

Children's bonus

More than 5,000 children have taken advantage of Yorkshire Building Society's offer of a £2.50 cash bonus when the balance in the account reaches £50.

Yorkshire's philosophy is to give cash bonuses rather than offer gimmicks and its Future Key Account is designed to give children an incentive to save. When he opens an account the child (who has to be under 16) receives a special passbook containing the £2.50 vouchers which can be claimed when the balance reaches £50, £100, £250 and £500.

Some 7,000 accounts have been opened since Future Key was launched in the summer and, of these 7,000 children, more than 5,000 have already qualified for at least one bonus voucher. Future Key currently pays the standard building society ordinary share account rate of 6.75 per cent.

Details from: Yorkshire Building Society, PO Box 66, Yorkshire House, Westgate, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD1 2AU. Tel: (0274) 734822.

Medical cover

A surprisingly large proportion of holidaymakers still go abroad without taking medical insurance. *Yet even a minor accident can cost you several thousand pounds if you need hospital treatment.*

Th Automobile Association's Travelsure policy offers comprehensive benefits at a reasonable cost and it has just been revamped to provide up to £1 *million worth of medical insurance.*

Up to 17 days' cover worldwide works out at £23.10 per person with the cost reducing substantially for European travellers, down to £10.95.

Personal belongings are covered for up to £1,000, cancellation up to £3,000, money up to £250 and personal liability up to £250,000. There is also a 25 per cent discount for children aged from three to 14 accompanied by an insured adult and the under-threes are covered free. Full details from AA centres throughout the country.

Loans in store

Next time you nip into British Home Stores keep your eye open for the Anglia Building Society/Boston Trust and Savings in store financial centre. While you are buying your handkerchiefs you can fix up a home loan with the Anglia or *obtain a personal loan from Boston Trust & Savings for a new car.*

The first of these new financial centres is scheduled to open in the spring with a total of seven test locations being planned by the end of 1985. Mr Tony Stoughton-Harris, chief general manager of the Anglia said: "British Home Stores is exploring new frontiers in retailing by introducing financial centres into their stores. Anglia, itself in the retailing business, will be taking full advantage of this opportunity to join with Boston and BHS in this venture."



Don't let the beard fool you, I'm not due for retirement until 1995

Shares warning

A caution to all British Telecom shareholders planning to sell their shares through one of the high street banks: it may cost more than you expect. The brokerage fee on selling BT shares through a bank is the same as selling through a stockbroker, but some banks add a handling charge.

One of our readers told us that when he used Midland to sell his shares he was charged an extra £5 plus 75p VAT as a transaction charge. He understood from Midland that the charge had been *introduced in September. But Midland* told us that the handling charge was entirely at the branch manager's *discretion.*

Barclays also charges for share dealings: £5 plus VAT on all deals of less than £1,500. NatWest charges on share deals, but it has made an exception for BT shares and is not charging on them.

Clearly, before selling your shares through your bank it pays to check on their charges first – or change banks.

Liquidation agreed

Investors in the failed licensed deposit taker, Eastcheap Investments Limited, who have nearly £1 million at risk, heard this week that the company is to be formally wound up. At a court hearing on Tuesday an application to liquidate the company was approved and there will be a creditors' meeting in February.

Some £800,000 of investors' money is at stake with an estimated £200,000 owed to other creditors. Most of the money on deposit seems to have been lent to property and finance companies and it may take a considerable time for the liquidator to realize these assets.

Meanwhile, one of the investors stands to lose £126,000, the entire sale proceeds of the family home.

Aid for Band Aid

Unsolicited donations totalling £5,000 have been received by Stoy Hayward, *accountants to the trustees behind the* chart-topping Band Aid charity record *"Do They Know It's Christmas?"* The biggest single donation of £4,000 was raised by Swanwick Hall Comprehensive School in Derbyshire. The rest came from individual members of the public. Stoy Hayward is joining the many artists, record producers, dealers and others by giving its services free.

Bargain of '84

Investment bargain of the year must be the National Savings Yearly Plan – on offer at all post offices and still paying the princely return of 9.06 per cent taxfree over the five-year term. The appeal of this scheme is that, like savings certificates, the interest paid does not vary after you have joined. The yearly plan is a 12-month savings scheme, at the end of which your cash is turned into a four-year savings certificate. The overall return on the maximum investment of £100 a month is £1,761 for an investment of £1,200. Details from post offices.

Free offer at Lloyds

Lloyds Bank has joined the Midland and Barclays in offering free banking for *retired customers who keep their* account in credit. The new terms are *effective* immediately and apply to joint accounts where one account holder is retired. Eligible customers should apply to their branch manager.

Women at work

Do you feel that you are being denied promotion at work because you are a woman? Women in Business is the title of a three-day conference being organized by Management Centre Europe at the Portman Hotel, London, from May 9 to 10. "The conference has been created to examine the additional challenges and obstacles that women face in the increasingly competitive business environment" says the promotional literature.

The conference which will be held under the chairmanship of Ms Audrey Slaughter, editor and founder of the new *magazine Working Woman*, costs £320 for the three days including meals and accommodation plus 56,000 Belgian francs (£746) for the participation fee. Details from Management Centre Europe, Rue Caroly 15, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: 32-2-516-19-11.

Savers' club

Woolwich For Kids account – with automatic club membership – aims to provide the under-12s with an introduction to saving together with a free magazine, stamp album and stamps and a birthday card each year. It could be a good idea if you have run out of Christmas present ideas.

Gift cheques are also available from Woolwich branches.

The Christmas Money Quiz



When the last television repeat of an old movie has been turned off, you might fancy a little light intellectual stimulation in the form of a Money Quiz. LAWRENCE LEVER has scoured back issues of *Family Money* and come up with some real teasers – just the thing to stop the brain cells atrophying after the Christmas port.

1. What is LAPR and what happened to it in the Budget?

2. What did the Royal Mint stop producing on March 29, this year?

3. What do James Haswell and Anthony Barrowclough QC have in common?

4. Launched in November, it was the first BES-funded art gallery. What is it called?

5. Two reductions from 75 per cent to 60 per cent followed as a consequence of this year's Budget. What were they?

6. Which late comedian's wife challenged his will in the High Court in May?

7. Vantage, Budget and Excel have what in common?

8. Why did travelling cause the National Union of Students much anxiety?

9. Which bank guarantee was reduced by the Government from 80 per cent to 70 per cent this year?

10. What set brokers' telephones a-ringing with a massive premium?

11. Which American company offers its shareholders 10 per cent off its hotel bills?

12. What was launched on August 8, offering 9 per cent?

13. Why did a house in Streatham, London, cost only £500?

14. Who pays interest gross but will shortly be paying net?

15. What might DZ 80 9999 be?

16. Who lost her American Express card while hanging upside down?

17. Which credit card company recently introduced a scheme to cover holiday collapses but did not plug the gap?



● Is he reliving his childhood?

18. Which building society launched a property service promising reductions in estate agents' commission?

19. What tax did some astute solicitors manage to save homeowners?

20. Which building society's perk was a snip at the price and a cut above those of its rivals?

21. Which insurance company changed its mind after criticism in *The Times* Family Money section?

22. What do DAS, Hambro Housley and IRPC have in common?

23. Why was June 1 a special date for many homeowners?

24. Who invested £70,000 and lost it all within 11 months?

WINE

Last-minute presents to cheer the festive spirit

They say you can never have too much of a good thing and this is certainly true of fine wines which are always welcome gifts at this time of year. CONAL GREGORY has been looking at what is available, both for drinking now or for laying down.

The bouyant wine trade has encouraged merchants to make several special offers.

One of the best selections *comes from Hawkins and* Nurick (31F High Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6AH), independent merchant, with discounts on 10 cases and more. It offers Joseph Perre champagne per magnum of the Cuvee Royal Brut at £14.96, two bottles of the same at £17.65, or on bottle of both the non-vintage Brut and 1979 with four glasses for £19.75.

Hawkins and Nurick also *lists packs of Armagnac Lasser*-single, three star and VSOP, surely the most undervalued qulaity spirit of France. A speciality 1953 Pays d'Auge calvados from the House of Morice answers the problem of the wine and spirit lover who has practically everything. For Burgandy, it offers a three-bottle pack of chablis from two estates at £14.95.

Green's of 34 Royal Ex*change, London, EC3V 3LP*, has six varied cases.

The Vintner's Choice at £14.50 consists of four different grape varieties and can double as a guessing game over the festive season: Syrah 1981 from the Ardéche, Gamay 1981 from Beaujolais, Trimbach's Pinot Blanc 1979 from Alsace, and Colombard from the Côtes de Gascogne.

Green's has several more illustrious packs, as well as – for the lover of fortified wines – single bottles of Green's Amontillado sherry and Finest Old Wood port – delicious with walnuts before the fire on Boxing Day. This two-bottle *selection costs £10.15*.

Berry Bros. and Rudd (3 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1EG) offers sampling cases, which are an excellent idea for the new wine investor. There are 10 on offer, such as the "commune" case: an opportunity to taste six of the best-known Bordeaux communes for £37, drawn from 1975 to 1977 vintages including d'Angludet from Margaux and Beau Site 1975 from St Estèphe.

The same firm offers a vintage claret mix, containging two bottles of six different 1974-78 wines, for £46.50. The Berry Bros. and Rudd list recommends relative dates for maturity if the investor wishes to purchase case quantities of those most enjoyed. It will also cellar them at £2.07 per dozen bottles, rising on January 1st to £2.35, but take out additional insurance as this is included only to purchase value.

Probably the most extensive quality chain is Peter Dominic. Look for Graham 1975 vintage port at £9.10 and forward Delaforce 1970 at £11.45, both including VAT. Its champagnes should let in the new year well – either a "Buyer's Own Brand" like Lambert Extra Dry at £5.99, which is exceptional value, or a marque, like Charles Heidsieck Rosé 1979 at £9.89 for slight colour.

For a woody style to accompany game, try Vinicola Ribalonga's Dao at £2.19 from Dominic, part of Grand Metropolitan, Fontanafredda's Barolo 1980 at £3.45 or the unusual Château Musar 1977 at £4.99 from the Lebanon – a truly remarkable wine considering the production difficulties in that country.

If you like to make a combined wine and food selection, Ellis Son and Vidler (Cliffe Cellars, Cliffe Estate, South Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 6JL) offers "The Sublime Port" – a fine old tawny – with a stoneware jar of blue stilton for £14. Madeira, both the subject of a lovely book by Noel Cossart (Christie's, £15.90 hardback and £10.90 semi-glazed cover) and a fine winter wine, goes well with festive fare. A good selection is offered by Ellis Son and Vidler including Old East India at £5.59 for laying down and enjoying a decade hence.

Finally, do not forget several important new wine publications: *The Wines of Chablis*, by Rosemary George (Sotheby, £14.95), *Wines of the Rioja* by the Spanish expert, Jan Read (Sotheby, £15.95) and *French Fine Wines* by Steven Spurrier (Willow Books, £5.95). They will enhance any wine lover's library.

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account – no interest paid. Deposit accounts – seven days notice required for withdrawals. Barclays 6.5 per cent, Lloyds and NatWest 6.25 per cent, Midland 6 per cent. National Girobank 7 per cent. "Lloyds extra interest 9.5 per cent. Nat West 8.25 per cent. Fixed term deposits £10,000-£24,999, 1 month 9 per cent, 3 months 9 per cent, 6 months 8.875 per cent. Rates quoted by National Westminster. Other banks may differ.

MONEY FUNDS

Fund	Flat	APR	Telephone
Aitken Hume monthly inc.	9.25	9.65	01 638 6070
B of Scotland	9.25	9.65	01 628 8060
Britannia call	9.0	9.31	01 588 2777
Oppenheimer Money Management Account	8.75	9.041	01 236 9362
S & P call	9.00	9.4	0708 66966
Schroder Wagg	8.9	9.27	0705 827733
" over £10,000	9.15	9.54	0705 827733
Tullet & Riley call	9.11	9.34	01 236 0952
T & R 7 day	9.36	9.59	01 236 0952
Tyndall 7 day	9.25	9.57	0272 732241
Tyndall call	9.13	9.47	0272 732241
UDT 7 day	8.75	9.04	01 626 4681
Western Trust 1 month	9.00	9.38	0752 261161
Henderson Money Market Cheque Account	9.25	9.65	01 638 5757
M & G Hica	9.3	9.74	01 626 4588
HFC Trust 7 day	9.5	9.72	01 236 8391

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts – interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1984, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Account – 11¼ per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, months notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £50,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min. investment £2,000 – max. £50,000. Interest – 12.75 per cent variable at six weeks notice reducing to 12 per cent from 2nd January – paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 months notice. Penalties in first year.

National Savings Certificates
29th issue. Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8 per cent, *maximum investment £5,000.*

National Savings Yearly Plan
A one year regular savings plan converting into four-year savings certificates. Minimum £20, Maximum £100 a month. Return over five years 9.06 per cent – tax free.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity.

2 years Capital Life 7.75 per cent. 3 years New Direction Finance 8.3 per cent. 4 years New Direction Finance 8.5 per cent. 5 years New Direction Finance 8.75 per cent.

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 yr Neath 10 per cent. 2 yrs Kent 10¼ per cent. 3 yrs Neath 10½ per cent. 4-5 Bournemouth 10¾ per cent. 6-7 yrs Edinburgh 11 per cent. 8-10 yrs *Northampton 11 per cent.*
Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public, Finance & Accountancy, Loans Bureau (638 6361 between 10am and 2.30pm) see also on Prestel no 24808.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts – 6.75 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1 per cent over the ordinary share rate. Regular savings schemes – 1.25 per cent over BSA advised ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Intl. Reserves 0481 26741. Seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

Sterling	8.64 per cent
US dollar	7.92 per cent
Yen	5.28 per cent
D Mark	4.66 per cent
French Franc	9.83 per cent
Swiss Franc	3.92 per cent

November RPI: 341.9.

Answers to the Money Quiz

1. Life assurance premium relief which was abolished for all bar the self-employed in the budget.

2. The halfpenny piece (worth 1.2 old pence for those that can remember).

3. They are both Ombudsmen. Mr James Haswell is the Insurance Ombudsman, while Mr Barrowclough is the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration.

4. Connaught Brown plc – the idea of the solicitor and art dealer Anthony Brown, aged 29.

5. The maximum rate of capital transfer tax payable on death, and the maximum tax relief attainable from BES investments, both dropped by this amount.

6. Dick Emery's widow disputed the provisions in his will which benefitted his mistress. She had to contribute to the costs of the case because she had previously refused an offer of settlment indentical to the judge's ultimate decision.

7. All were tour operators which collapsed this year.

8. Alterations in the rules governing claims for students' travelling expenses were fiercely opposed by the Natinonal Union of Students.

9. The Government's loan guarantee scheme, whereby a certain percentage of the amount of a bank loan to a small business in guaranteed by the Government.

10. British Telecom shares which opened on the market at a premium of 43p on a 50p partly-paid share.

11. *Ramada Inns*: the perk is available to British investors as well and includes a free transfer to the best room available.

12. The 28th Issue of National Savings Certificates; it prompted a deluge of investors to switch their building society money.

13. This was the value of the freehold of the building, already occupied by tenants. Apart from ground rental income the £500 investment held out the hope of capital from lease renegotiations.

14. The clearing banks who will next year be paying depositors's interest after deduction of basic rate tax.

15. This could be the last £1 note to be printed.

16. Lorna Bourke, Family Money editor of *The Times*, who lost her card on a rocket ride at Utah State Fair.

17. Barclaycard. But the scheme does not cover travel agent failure.

18. The Abbey National Property Service was launched at the beginning of this year. Abbey borrowers could transfer their mortgage to buyers, and were entitled to a 10 per cent reduction in estate agents' normal commission charges.

19. Stamp duty; by exploiting a loophole in the Stamp Act which exempted agreements for leases over 35 years from stamp duty. The loophole was closed in the Budget and arguments continue to rage as to whether it was valid in the first place.

20. The Town and Country Building Society offered a pair of garden shears to investors in their ordinary share account.

21. The Insurance Corporation of Ireland was at first refusing to pay out after the Air Florida collapse on the grounds that the airline's Chapter 11 bankruptcy did not come within the strict letter of its policy.

22. They all offer legal expenses insurance.

23. After this date VAT was charged on home improvements.

24. Michael Goldie, the Coronation Street actor, lost this money through commodity futures dealings with the broker Merrill Lynch.

Answer to picture quiz

● (See *The Times*, June 30). No. Mr Harry Chadwick, general manager of the Bristol & West Building Society, is promoting the society's Snoopy account for young savers.

FOOTBALL: THE END OF THE OLD YEAR COULD HERALD THE NEW LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Bates and Maxwell help save Southend

Robert Maxwell the Oxford United chairman and his Chelsea counterpart, Ken Bates, have loaned Southend United the money they need to save them from bankruptcy proceedings. Mr Maxwell and Mr Bates have joined forces to come up with the £70,000 which Southend needed to repay their supporters from the club's Christmas savings fund.

The Football League, whose rules prevent any individual having interests in more than one club, have approved the loan and Mr Maxwell said he did not want to become involved in Southend's affairs. "We have done this because it is Christmas and because it is our way of wishing soccer fans everywhere a happy Christmas and a successful 1985," Mr Maxwell said.

Andy Williamson, speaking for the Football League, said: "If the donation has gone direct to the supporters' loan club, which has nothing to do officially with Southend FC and is a separate entity, then the involvement of the two men does not conflict with League regulations."

Southend were one of three clubs found guilty of breaking these rules last week because of their connection with Anton Johnson.

The club had been told that they had until six o'clock last night to find the £70,000 or they would be facing bankruptcy proceedings. The loan club protest group had issued the directors with a solicitor's letter containing the deadline warning.

Bobby Moore, the Southend manager, said: "It shows the spirit of Christmas can still be found in the game. No words can be expressed how we feel about these friends of ours and the game have done. We could not be more delighted."

The Southend players had earlier in the day collected wages for the first time in three weeks following a second loan from the Professional Footballers' Association. The PFA had previously loaned the club £25,000 and a further sum of uner £10,000 was made available.





Warm heads and hearts: Maxwell (top) and Bates

Dutch chase first points

Nicosia (Reuter) – The Netherlands, without a point at the foot of their World Cup qualifying group, must beat Cyprus here tomorrow to have any chance of palying in the 1986 finals in Mexico.

The Dutch, who finished runners-up in 1974 and 1978 finals, have lost both their qualifying group five matches, against Hungary and Austria. Their only realistic hope of reaching Mexico is to finish second in the group and win a play-off.





City sights: Williams (left) and Nicholas may return to the first division fray in London today

Feast days to end Everton famine

By Clive White

Traditionally, Christmas makes a crucial judgement on a team's strength and its ability to last the championship course. This season, however, several of the contenders might still be *involved come late afternoon* on New Year's Day.

I will hazard a guess, though, that those other Merseysiders, Everton, who last won the championship 25 years ago, will still have their noses in front at the end of the festivities. The omens would be good for them if they were to defeat Chelsea today. Twice in the three seasons that three points have been awarded for a win, the leaders immediately before Christmas have gone on to win the title.

The word "leaders" is usually synonymous with Liverpool. Everton compare quite favourably for once with their more famous cousins, the 15 times League champions. If Everton triumph today they will have collected 40 points from 20 games. Last season at the same stage, Liverpool had 37 points from 18 games; in 1982 thay had 40 points from 18 games; and in 1981 24 points from 16 games. Swansea City were the Christmas leaders then, which is not such a good omen.

None of Everton's rivals, however, have a more fulsome quartet of matches. A trip to Roker Park on Boxing Day is the sort of fixture anyone would dread. Sunderland, who also play Tottenham Hotspur during the holidays and Liverpool and Southampton in the coming weeks, could have a loud say in championship matters.

Everton, who have Bailey at left back for the suspended Van Den Hauwe today and Boxing Day, should be in the right mood after last week's drubbing of Nottingham Forest. "I'm happy with the way things have developed in the last couple of months and I feel our only poor performance was at Norwich", Howard Kendall, the manager, said.

The holiday fixture should tell much about Everton's ability to sustain their efforts without the bubbly Heath until the end of the season. Gray is currently the man keeping Kendall from dipping too earnestly into the transfer market. Chelsea, who, in common with Everton and Southampton, have a tough programme, may recall Jones for Rougvie, who has influenza.

Manchester United, who will go to Chelsea next Saturday in some trepidation, gently ease themselves into the merriment with matches against Ipswich Town and Stoke City. Hughes, their joint top scorer, has returned to partner Stapleton.

London stands by today for a sighting of those long lost stars, Nicholas and Williams. Their appearances would welcome excuse to avoid the congestion in Oxford Street. Football managers, unlike the rest of us, are not usually panicked into buying at this time of the year, so it might make sense to put Williams back into the shop window if Southampton aim to obtain even their reduced price of £600,000 for him. Lawrie McMenemy could also bring back Williams's equally restless colleague, Wright, against West Ham United but, with injuries to Whitlock and Jordan, the Southampton manager has deferred his selection.

Nicholas's return against Watford after an absence of three matches is far more likely, though. But, as Davis has suffered a groin injury, the fact would not be lost on the sybaritic Scot that it would not be enrely on merit. He scored twice at Watford in September and a frenzied derby atmosphere may suit his natural gifts. O'Leary is fit but Sansom requires a test. Rostron has recovered from his knee injury to lead Watford against the club with whom he made his name.

Liverpool step up their title defence

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Queen's Park Rangers......0
Liverpool......2

The champions reached their highest position in the League so far this season when they jumped four places into fifth in the table with a challenging performance in London last night.

In spite of the tons of sand that have been poured onto the Rangers carpet, the pitch remains unnaturally quick. Control is still awkward and Liverpool, initially at least, found it as difficult a surface as in Tokyo's national stadium recently. Then there were bumps; here it was almost too flat for their comfort.

The opening was therefore generally untidy and the contrast in styles did not help to promote fluency. Liverpool, for once, preferred to ignore any intricacies in midfield, where all of their representatives except for Molby appeared awkward in possession. Instead they looked immediately for Walsh and Rush, the fleet-footed pair who have renewed their striking partnership.

While Liverpool were finding their feet, Rangers made progress with their own style that is full of flicks, back-heels, and touches of rare delicacy. With Stainrod in particular showing delightful technique, they exposed the known weakness in Liverpool's defence, and the lack of speed of both full backs. But on each occasion their crosses lacked the necessary accuracy.

They were to pay for their waywardness. After Molby had forced Hucker to save his fierce free kick at the near post, Liverpool not only found their feet but began also to find their range as well. A Walsh volley and a Wark half-volley confirmed that the balance was altering, gradualy but inexorably.

The champions turned the growing threat into reality after 36 minutes. Lawrenson released Rush down the left and three Rangers defenders closed in, aware of the danger that the Welshman presented. Yet they had forgotten about his colleagues and Rush's square pass was met first by the faltering Walsh and then by Wark, who found a gap inside the far post.

Rush almost added to Liverpool's lead early in the second half and then did so on the hour, although he looked suspiciously offside when Nicol freed him. But once given the opportunity to proceed, he went round the advancing Hucker before rolling the ball into the empty net.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS: P Hucker; W Neill, I Dawes, (sub: J Byrne), G Waddock, G Chivers, F Fenwick, A McDonald, I Stewart, G Bannister, S Stainrod, J Gregory.
LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar; P Neal, A Kennedy, M Lawrence, S Nicol, A Hansen, P Walsh, J Molby, I Rush (sub: G Gillespie) C Johnson, J Wark.
Referee: B Hill (Northants).

Last night's results

FIRST DIVISION: QPR 0, Liverpool 2.
THIRD DIVISION: Bournemouth 1, Orient 0.
FOURTH DIVISION: Crewe 1, Colchester 4; Rochdale 3, Chesterfield 1; Stockport 0, Darlington 0; Tranmere 3, Exeter 2.

Old firm debit side swept under carpet

By Hugh Taylor

There may be shadows hanging over Celtic and Rangers as the oldest and deadliest protagonists in Scottish football meet yet again at Parkhead today, but the worries of the clubs will not prevent this match turning as usual into the most dramatic on the premier division calendar.

Even if the football is seldom attractive, such is the tension, atmosphere and will to win of the *ancient rivals that every Old Firm* encounter has overtones of a battle royal. With all concerned firmly convinced that this remains the most important match of all, Celtic's fear of a ban in Europe and worry that they are four points adrift of the league leaders and Rangers' despression over dreary form will be forgotten.

Celtic start as favourites because they are sharper in attack and more stylish in midfield, even though there are question marks over the defence. Rangers will be without their captain, Paterson, and Dawson, who are suspended.

Although Celtic, who are unbeaten at home in 27 League outings, will be without McAdam, their central defender, hopes are high that the skilful Burns will return to midfield.

Whether Alex Ferguson, the Aberdeen manager, is right when he asserts that Celtic-Rangers games are tame affairs compared with the matches between his club and Dundee United, is open to doubts.

They meet today at Pittodrie and, although United showed last week that they have fully recovered from their disappointment of losing to Manchester United in the UEFA Cup, they may not be strong enough to halt the majestic progress of Aberdeen

United may be without Sturrock, their international forward, but Aberdeen are heartened by the news that their injured pair, Black and Weir, have a good chance of playing. They will be without McLeish.

Harris in peril at Aldershot

Ron Harris, Aldershot's manager, yesterday replied to a claim by the former chairman, Reg Driver, that he will be dismissed by the end of January.

Driver has regained 51 per cent of shares and is preparing to recapture the board room. He said on Thursday, "We reinstate Len Walker with total control for the team. As I see it Ron Harris will be unemployed."

Harris said, "All I am concerned with is getting things right on the pitch. My contract is a personal matter. Mr Driver is doing all the talking, but I certainly don't think he will be back in power in January."

Porto's bid for Steel meets rejection

Wrexham, who are bottom of the fourth division, have rejected an offer from FC Porto, the Portuguese first division side, for Jim Steel, their top scorer. The Wrexham chairman, Pryce Griffiths, described the offer as "ridiculously low – an insult to both the club and the player. They would have at least to treble the price before we'd even think of parting with Steel."

The Scottish centre forward cost Wrexham £10,000 from Port Vale just over a year ago and it was his first-leg goal that set Wrexham up for victory over Porto in the European Cup Winners' Cup in October.

● Lennie Lawrence, the Charlton manager, believes he has made his most important venture into the transfer market with yesterday's signing of Alan Curbishley form Aston Villa. A former West Ham and Birmingham midfield player, Curbishly moved to the Valley for £35,000. "We still need several more fresh faces and Alan's decision to move out of the first division could influence other players to come here," Lawrence said.

● Crystal Palace want to keep Peter Nicholas, the international midfield player. The club chairman, Ron Noades, insisted today that Palace, bedevilled by financial problems a few months ago, do not need to sell Nicholas to Sheffield United to balance the books.

● Ken McNaught, West Bromwich Albion's Scottish defender, today joined Manchester City on a month's loan. Aged 29, he has been unable to win a first-team place this season. He has become increasingly disillusioned at Albion, saying he was "an outcast" there.

● Norwich City are delaying a decision on their fire-damaged main stand until the New Year.



Curbishley: £35,000 signing

Sunday best for TV

Chairmen of the Football League clubs meet in London on January 17 to discuss a new TV agreement to replace the current £5.2 million two-year deal which ends in May. They will almost certainly hear that BBC and ITV, who want more live games, would prefer all matches on a Sunday

If both companies were given Sunday screenings there would be a more settled look to League programming and live games after rather than before the main Saturday programme are thought to have less effect on other attendances.

The number of matches will be a controversial issue, for if the number is raised from the present five per channel to a suggested seven or eight each, then with the addition of five live FA Cup ties the non-terrace public would have a match per fortnight.

Chairmen of the clubs featured most often in the live screenings are also expected to argue for a larger share of the cash, although experience has now taught them how to attract the maximum advertising revenue

RUGBY UNION

Wales may sidestep obvious choice by elevating Ackerman

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Four Welsh players sat down to lunch together at Twickenham in September on the eve of the game between an England XV and their President's team. The quartet, all established members of the side, were discussing the atmosphere in the Welsh squad and were agreed that it was happy and that prospects for the season seemed good.

How times change. Of that quartet Watkins, then acknowledged as an inspirational leader, has now resigned the captaincy; Stephens, the Bridgend prop, has been incapacitated by injury; Perkins and Ackerman were part of a Welsh team which, whatever its shortcomings in terms of individual match fitness, was humbled by Australia last month.

Watkins, aged 32, retired on Thursday from international rugby after winning four caps, all as captain, the last of them against Australia. That game may have contributed towards his withdrawal; other reasons were work (he is employed in the family haulage business), family commitments, and clubb captaincy with Newport.

His timing was less than opportune. It was the day a new senior squad *was announced and no* notice was given to the selectors, which does nothing to encourage mutual confidence between those who play and those who choose who plays.

Meanwhile, a new captain is required with the daunting prospect of leading his country into the international championship starting against France in Paris on January 19. Ironically, there are two previous captains in the national squad, neither of whom would appear to fit the bill: Butler and Davies. Butler was deposed in favour of Watkins and is under fire for lacking authority in his back-row play. A thoughtful man, with *his* natural share of pride, he may not wish to shoulder the burden once more.

Davies, a captain of Wales in 1981-2, has led his club and did as good a job as circumstances permitted of organizing and encouraging *the Barbarians* side which was narrowly beaten by the Australians last weekend. But he is not yet assured of a place in Wale's team and his restoration would mean the *overturning of what are evidently* cherished principles of selection.

The obvious candidate remaining is Holmes, the scrum half, who is in his first season as Cardiff's captain but has been out of the game for two months with a shoulder injury. He is going to play against Bridgend today and for the Barbarians next Thursday against Leicester before going on a week's skiing holiday, returning in time for the next Welsh squad meeting on January 7. Under normal circumstances Wales would announce the team to play France on January 10.

Holmes has recovered well from his injury and has proved his value as a player many times over for Wales. Whether he would be inhibited by the national captaincy remains to be seen, though at 27 he has sufficient maturity to carry it off. Possibly the main querry concerns *the distressing run of injuries he has* suffered during the last four years, in which respect the selectors might consider Ackerman

London Welsh, his club, believe he has the potential to be an inspiring leader, though his experience of the job even as a schoolboy is virtually nil (he led the Barbarians against Cardiff two seasons ago). Though aged only 23, he already has 17 caps, a British Lions tour and playing experience in New Zealand and Australia to his credit and is playing well enough to be sure of his place in the side. He could also be a positive advantage in that he is working in London, away from the day-to-day demands the Welsh public tend to place on their rugby internationals.

Watkins (left) going out and Holmes who may be coming in

One match for the selectors

By David Hands

Bath and Pontypool who could justifiably claim to be their respective countries' leading clubs, provide their own brand of Christmas entertainment at Pontypool Park today in a match whose importance is enhanced by the state of flux in which the selectors of both England and Wales find themselves.

Pontypool field the team that lost to the Australians with one exeption: Huish, the flanker has torn arm muscles so Butler, the club captian, moves to No 8 and Moseley, an addition to the Welsh senior squad on Thursday, plays lock.

Both will be without Cunningham, their hooker, who is respresenting the Anglo-Scots against Edinburgh. They may also be without Hall, their England flanker. He sustained a dead leg against Harlequins last weekend and, though that was cleared up, he has acquired a painful ear infection. Horton has been restored at stand-off half, leaving Palmer and Halliday in the centre.

Much has been said recently of Bath's decision to drop Horton to allow for the inclusion of Halliday last weekend. It was taken in some quarters as interference by England selectors, but it was a move the club would have had to have made at some stage. Horton has announced his decision to retire at the end of the season and Bath must plan for the days when they will be without him. Halliday's form has been promising, Rees – the unlucky centre today – has been most consistent and Palmer has played stand-off before. It was, in any case, explained to Horton that it would be for one match only, hence his reappearance today.

Sparrell, Bath's captain, may be considered in that role for the South and South-West divisional *side* which plays the Romanians at Gloucester on January 1 after the withdrawal of Mills (Gloucester) from the side because of his neck injury. His deputy at hooker is Bogira of Bristol.

The other member of Bath's back row, Simpson, has already received one seasonal present: he has been restored to the Northern Division's back row against the Romanians on December 29 after the withdrawal of Johnston, the West Hartlepool 8, whose job may force his retirement from rugby.

Cinderella of the oval ball game

By Ian McLauchlan

North and Midlands are the Cinderella of the Scottish championship. They have lost 26 games in succession and even the fact that seven players from Edinburgh clubs play in their colours has not stopped the rot.

Today they play Glasgow at Hughenden and they see it as their best chance of a win this season. Glasgow are again upset by late changes. Matt Duncan has a back injury, which means that Jim Gossman moves from centre to wing, with Alan Ker, the Glasgow Academicals captain, coming in to the centre. The full back, Steve Evans, is replaced by Bill Arundel, who will be playing in his first representative game.

Ritchie Dixon, the Glasgow coach, has to overcome player complacency since his men have played well this season against Australia and the South and may see this as an easy fixture, which it has never proved to be in the past.

In the other district game Anglo-Scots visit Edinburgh. David Sole, the prop forward, has not recovered from rib bruising and is replaced by Neil Wear, who moves across the scrum to loose-head prop, with John Reid, the young London Scot, coming in for his first game. Jeremy Macklin replaces Ian McKie at No 8. Both sides seem fairly evenly matched; Edinburgh have the edge in the tight scrum and the Anglos in the lineout.

The most interesting and perhaps crucial area will be in the loose, where Edinburgh have the Calder twins, Jim and Finlay, and the combative Charlie Richardson in rare form; but the Anglos have in Buchanan-Smith, Macklin and Morrison three useful citizens.

Perhaps the most cheerful news for Scottish supporters this week is the return to club rugby of John Rutherfordand Iain Paxton, who play for Selkirk at Preston Lodge. It is almost seven months since they last played and damaged their knee ligaments. Both are vital to Scotland's international challenge.

Roxborough dropped

Richmond make one change from the side that beat Blackheath last weekend by one point for tomorrow's home game against Harlequins. Bruce Roxborough on the wing is dropped in favour of Simon Pennock.

Irish trial of new faces and minimal changes

By George Ace

Today's final Irish trial at Landsdowne Road will be as much a test of recognition as of assessing ability. Having been fed on a diet of Slattery, Keane, Duggan, O'Driscoll, Campbell and Ward for more years than one cares to remember, such names as Spillane, Collins, Kearney (the one from Sunday's Wells) Keyes, Aherne and McMaster do not readily register in the mind's eye.

The team to meet England at Lansdowne Road on January 19 will be selected this evening and is expected to be announced tomorrow.

Comments by Michael Cuddy, the chairman of selectors, suggest a minimum of change. Crossan, an original selection for the game against the Wallabies, will resume on the left wing, Kiernan switching to the centre, with Finn excluded. This is the only change envisaged behind the scrum.

The compositio of the back five will cause most discussion, but in the final analysis options are few. One of the main battles will be that between the man in possession, Sexton, and Carr for the open-side wing forward place. Anderson's performance for the Barbaians last Saturday at No 8 may influence a switch from the lock position he occupied for Ireland against Australia, with McCall, the London Irish second row, emerging as a possible partner for Lenihan.

WHITES (or Probables): H P MacNeill (Oxford University and Blackrock College); T M Ringland (Ballymena), B J Mullin (Dublin University), M J Kiernan (Lansdowne), K D Crossan (Instonians); P M Dean (St Mary's College), M T Bradley (Cork Constitution); J J McCoy (Dungannon), C F Fitzgerald (St Mary's College, capt), P Kennedy (London Irish), P M Matthews (Ards), W A Anderson (Dungannon), D G Lenihan (Cork Constitution), W Sexton (Garryowen), R K Kearney (Wanderers).

BLUES (or Possibles): J P Barry (Cork Constitution, capt); T P McMaster (Bangor), M C Finn (Cork Constitution), R J Moroney (Lansdowne), D Aherne (St Mary's College); R P Keyes (Cork Constitution), R C Brady (Queen's University, Belfast); P A Orr (Old Wesley), H T Harbison (Bective Rangers), M P Fitzpatrick (Wanderers), P Collins (Highfield), F Kearney (Sunday's Wells), B M McCall (London Irish), N J Carr (Ards), B Spillane (Limerick Bohemians).

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

[illegible] Shield: Perth: Victoria 405 (D M J [illegible]; T G Hogan 5 for 106). Western Australia 199 for 6 (G Shipperd 85). Hobart: Tasmania 188 for 3 dec (M Ray 82); South Australia 54 for 1.
ADELAIDE: Second women's Test: England 91 ([illegible] Price 4 for [illegible]). Australia 84 for 1 (D Emerson 53 not out).

ICE HOCKEY

NORTH AMERICA: National League (NHL): Philadelphia Flyers 8, New Jersey Devils 4; Detroit Red Wings 5, Quebec Nordiques 4; Washington Capitals 2, Montreal Canadiens 2; Calgary Flames 9, Vancouver Canucks 1.
MOSCOW: Izvestia tournament: Finland 6, West Germany 3.

TENNIS

ADELAIDE: South Australian open: Second round: H van Boeckel (Neth) bt K Belcher (US) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1. Quarter-finals: M Bauer (US) bt S Perkis (Israel) 7-5, 7-6. P Doohan (Aust) bt T Mayotte (US) 4-6, 6-2, 7-6. J Fitzgerald (Aust) bt M Mecir (Cz) 6-3, 6-3. van Boeckel bt J Frawley (Aust) 7-6, 6-4.
MIAMI BEACH: Annual Orange Bowl Junior Championships: Boy's under 18: Quarter-finals: G Roldan (Arg) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-3, 6-2. D Wager (US) bt M Briggs (US) 6-3, 6-3. A Bavelas (Gr) bt Zeher (Alg) 4-6, 7-6, 7-6. H Skopf (Austria) bt A Parker (US) 6-1, 6-0. Girls' under 18: Quarter-finals: M J Fernandez (US) bt Porwik (WG) 6-2, 6-1. S Sloan (US) bt K Shin (US) 6-4, 2-6, 7-5. P Tarabini (Arg) bt Sabo (US) 6-3, 6-0. A Schwartz (US) bt K Oberleitner (Austria) 6-7, 6-4, 6-0.

FOOTBALL

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Preston North End 0, York City 2.

ICE HOCKEY

MOSCOW: Izvestia tournament: Sweden 5, Finland 3.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Solent Stars 67 (Sears, 18), Warrington 70 (Brown, 18).

	P	W	L	Pts
Solent	12	10	2	20
Kingston	11	9	2	18
Warrington	11	8	3	16
Leicester	11	8	3	16
Hemel/Watford	11	7	4	14
Bracknell	10	6	4	12
Worthing	11	6	5	12

ANGLO SCOTTISH CUP, Elimination round: Sunderland Maestros 108 (Haefner 33), Glasgow 101 (Saunders, 35).
UNITED STATES: National Association (NBA): Chicago Bulls 132, Atlanta Hawks 129; Utah Jazz 117, Detroit Pistons 116; New York Knicks 112, Cleveland Cavaliers 97; Kansas City Kings 118, Portland Trail Blazers 113.

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Guildford RGS 6, Guildford RGS Past XV 0; Lichfield Friary 54, Westwood High, Leek 0.

NORDIC SKIING

SAINT MORITZ: World Cup: Men's 15km cross-country race: 1, G Andersen (Nor) 45min 59.2sec; 2, U Dotzauer (EG) 48:01.0; 3, H Boegseth (Nor) 48:27.8; 4, H Weinbuch (WG) 48:29.3; 5, T Loekken (Nor) 46:41.3; 6, F Glanzmann (Switz) 46:42.4.
COMBINED RESULTS: 1, Andersen 419.1 pt; 2, H Schwarz (WG) 417.3; 3, T Mueller (WG) 414.21; 4, Loekken 412.28; 5, Weinbuch 411.48; 6, Dotzauer 409.93.
World cup standings: 1, Andersen 50pt; 2, H Schwarz (WG) 40; 3, T Mueller 29; 4, Boegseth 24; 5, Dotzauer 22.

SQUASH RACKETS

LONDONDERRY CUP: Third round: Tonbridge bt Marlborough 4-1.

Frost in Hong Kong

Hong Kong (AFP) – Morten Frost of Denmark, the world No 1, will be the top men's seed at next month's $22,100 Hong Kong Open Championship, which launches the 1985 Grand Prix badminton circuit. Two English players, Steve Baddeley, the fifth seed, and Nick Yates, seeded sixth, are expected to face tough competition from Hadiyanto of Indonesia and Jin Chen of China in their opening matches.

O'Connor honoured

Christy O'Connor, selected a record 10 times for the Ryder Cup team, celebrated his sixtieth birthday with another award yesterday. The Royal Dublin veteran was named by the Irish Golf Writers' Association as the winner of their distinguished services to Irish golf award. Another veteran, Brian Hoey, aged 50, of Shandon Park, was voted the outstanding amateur of 1984.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Dewsbury have every reason to be confident

By Keith Macklin

Back in 1973 Dewsbury astounded the Rugby League world by winning the championship play-off. Since then the club from the small woollen town in West Yorkshire has suffered a decline in fortunes, floundering about in the second division and going close to bankruptcy.

This season there has been a remarkable upturn in the fortunes of Dewsbury, with a long unbeaton run in the second division, hopes of promotion, slowly increasing attendances, and tomorrow a resounding plum with the visit of Hull in the quarter-finals of the John Player Special Trophy.

Dewsbury, with a homespun team devoid of star names, expect an attendance above 5,000 four times their average, for the visit of the international-studded Humbersiders. With Hull struggling to find form and without Garry Schofield, Dewsbury even fancy their chances of making the semi-finals of the trophy for the first time ever. It is a tall order but Hull will have to fight sky-high confidence and the notorious Crown Flatt slope.

This afternoon St Helens entertains *Halifax and, even without* Veivers, should make home advantages count to continue their impressive unbeaten run.

In tomorrow's other quarter-finals the most prolific trophy hunters of all, Widnes, are in a bit of a trough at the moment, and may bow to the skill and pace of the home side, Hull Kingston Rovers.

IN BRIEF

Another Belfast bout for McGuigan

Barney Eastwood, Barry McGuignan's manager, has won the purse offer to stage McGuignan's European featherweight title defence against Farid Gallouze of France. The Ulster boxer, already involved in a bout on February 20 to be shown on American network television, may defend the title in January.

Mr Eastwood said yesterday: "It depends whether Barry wants to fight in January. If he does, it will probably go on at the Ulster Hall. But if, as I believe, Gallouze is involved in a French championship fight, it might suit everyone to put the European championship back to early April."

NORDIC SKIING: Geir Andersen of Norway scored his second consecutive Nordic combined World Cup victory by winning yesterday's 15-kilometre race at St Moritz. Hubert Schwarz, winner of Thursday's jumping event, finished second overall.

MOTOR RALLYING: The French Government has given the Monaco Automobile Club permission to stage the Monte Carlo Rally on French roads from January 26 to February 2. The decision comes two days after the Council of State ruled *that the French* motor sport federation had no right to ask a million francs compensation for use of French roads, but the rally still may not go ahead unless the Monaco club can settle their differences with the French federation, who have started a lawsuit claiming the right to organize the event.

One ground that has yet to be a collector's item

SIDELINES
Gordon Allan

There can be much more to going to a rugby match than going to a rugby match. In the right circumstances, not seeing it can provide an experience to remember long after you would have forgotten the match itself.

One Christmas I was sent to Stradey Park to report Llanelli's game with Bath. I was looking forward to it because although I had seen the Llanelli team play, I had *never seen their ancestral home*. I have still not seen it.

The morning papers gave an evening kick-off, and so I travelled in the afternoon, intending to stay the night – if you follow my meaning. The little train from Swansea carried me up the valley to Llanelli, and when I stepped out in the dusk I found the town like a sort of landlocked Mary Celeste – everywhere closed, the streets empty, not so much as a cat to be seen, and rain starting to fall.

My first task was to find a bed for the night, but I found only bolts and bars and unlit windows. Compassless, I walked in circles. When time pressed, I decided to go to the match first and look for a hotel later. But I had no idea where Stradley was, and there was nobody to ask because (I assumed) the entire population were *either indoors being festive or* already in their seats awaiting the kick-off.

It was getting colder by the minute, and the rain by now was pelting down. I sheltered in a shop doorway to review the situation, and as I stood there wet and shivering a policeman joined me. We fell into conversation, as men will when they meet unexpectedly on a desert island, and after agreeing with him that it was no night to be out, I mentioned the match.

"Oh, I've just come from Stradey," he said. "Wasn't much of a game. You didn't miss anything, believe me."

"But I understood it was in the evening."

"No, no. It kicked off at three, I think."

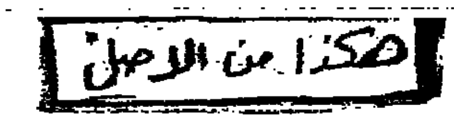
The referee, then, must have been blowing his whistle to end the match at about the time my train was arriving in Llnelli.

"Who won?" I asked, lugubriously.

"Sorry, I couldn't tell you that. I was on duty – had to leave before the end, see. But I think the Scarlets were leading."

I felt vaguely relieved. I did not need a hotel now because I could return to London that night, but I did need something to eat, and at last I found a pub, bought ham sandwiches and an orange juice, and, from my corner, overheard some of the customers discussing the match. They corroborated the policeman's opinion that it had been poor stuff.

"Fortunes of war, old chap," the office said when I reached them on the phone after half an hour of trying, and they wished me a happy new year. But I was sorry not to have seen Stradey Park, for I "collect" rugby grounds, no matter whose they are, Llanelli's or the London Fire Brigade's.



RACING: MRS DICKINSON'S YOUNG CHASER LOOKS ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE HANDICAPPER IN WELSH NATIONAL

Planetman's star in the ascendant

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

A glance through the latest edition of the *Racing Calendar* served to strengthen my belief that the Planetman has a good chance of winning the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow today.

This handicap was framed before my selection had even run this season. In the meantime he has won both his races and in so doing escaped being penalized. This week's *Racing Calendar* shows that with the benefit of hindsight the handicapper would have given Planetman 9lb more to carry. In the circumstances he should be hard to beat with only 10st on his back.

On this season's form neither Androma, who won the Scottish National last spring, nor Hy-Ko, and Mid Day Gun, have an earthly chance of beating Planetman on these terms. Planetman is trained by Monica Dickinson, who will also be represented by Righthand Man, another who is unbeaten this season. However, Righthand Man seem to have his fair share weight for a marathon which over the years has tended to favour those nearer the foot of the handicap. There should be little between Lucky Vane and Righthand Man on last season's Eider Chase running at Newcastle, which Lucky Vane won by a neck.

Along with Kumbi, Lucky Vane represents this year's Hennessy Cognac Cup form which has such a golden thread going through it. The way that Lucky Vane finished that day albeit in only sixth position, one behind Kumbi, suggested he was crying out for a much longer distance and that is precisely what confronts him now.

However, if Planetman is to be beaten on this occasion I think that it will be by either Hardy Lad or Little Polveir. Hardy Lad has a definite chance of reversing recent Newcastle placings with Peaty Sandy at these weights, while Little Polveir, who has won twice over the course, cannot be left out of the reckoning judged on the way he ran away from Why Forget at the end of three miles and five furlongs at Sandown.

Prior to that Why Forget had forced Righthand Man to pull out all the stops at Haydock. Having won the Welsh National once already on Peaty Sandy Geordie Dun was faced with a difficult choice between the horse who was triumphant three years ago and the top weight, A Kinsman. He has chosen A Kinsman, knowing that only Limonali has ever won the race carrying as much weight in its 36-year history.

Freeflow is selected to win the Finale Junior Hurdle as I am far from convinced that neither Beat the Retreat nor Jamesmead would have beaten him at Sandown had he not made a hash of jumping the last hurdle and paid the consequences.

Irrespective of what happens at Chepstow, Mrs Dickinson looks to have the answer to the Colwick Handicap Chase at Nottingham in the shape of State Case, who is my idea of the day's banker. The nap certainly appears to have the beating of Kevinsfort, from Jimmy Fitzgerald's on-song stable.

Also at Nottingham, the recent performances of Joy Ride and Chipped Metal at Ascot and Haydock point to Nassau Royale being good enough to beat Corn Street and Burrough Hill Lad's unraced half-brother, Artful Charley, in the second division of the Tollerton Novices Hurdle.

At Lingfield I expect Andrew Turnell and Steve Knight to win the Tote Placepot Hurdle with Whole Shebang and then pull off a lucrative double by taking the Tote Treble Handicap Chase with Maori Venture. The latter was right there with a good chance of winning a tough race at Cheltenham recently when he slipped and fell four out, while Whole Shebang was far from disgraced in the Mecca Bookmakers' Hurdle.

Finally, it may pay to take a long-priced chance with Magic Sky in the Tote Daily Double Novices' Handicap Hurdle. After a lengthy absence from the course, Fulke Walwyn's mare shaped with distinct promise in the race won by Sutton Prince at Sandown at the end of last month.



Beat The Retreat, seen in full cry at Sandown, chases his seventh success in today's Finale Hurdle at Chepstow

Pagan Sun warms to new role

Pagan Sun comfortably beat his rivals in the West Norfolk Novices' Hurdle at Fakenham yesterday to become a 25-1 chance with William Hill for the *Daily Express* Triumph Hurdle. Thrown in at the deep end on his first appearance over timber at Cheltenham earlier this month, when he did not jump well, the Terry Ramsden owned colt was fluent this time.

Tony Carroll jumped him to the front at the third last flight and, stealing a clear over his shoulder at the next, his mount shook off the attention of Gulfland, and stormed to a ten lengths victory.

"Pagan Sun worked better than Wing And A Prayer at home," said his Newmarket trainer Alan Bailey, who sold Wing And A Prayer to John Jenkins for David Steele the day before he won the Cheltenham race in which Pagan Sun finished seventh.

Eight Boxing Day programmes in Monday's newspaper

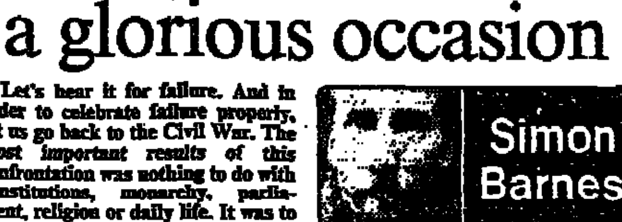
Philip Mitchell's name has become synonymous with Fakenham. The Epsom trainer brought his total of winners on the course to 20 in the last four and a half years when he brought off a double with Vaigly Rel in the Fitzwilliam Selling Handicap Hurdle and Leith Hill Flyer in the Belvoir Conditional Jockeys handicap chase.

Vaigly Rel, who won by six lengths partnered by the amateur Simon Sherwood, has been a problem horse, losing his races through worrying in the horsebox on the way to the course, according to Mitchell.

Leith Hill Flyer, who drifted from 7-4 to 4-1 joint outsider with Cole Porter, came away from that rival over the last fence to win by ten lengths and give Alan Wright, who has been with Mitchell for two years, the 13th winner of his career.

Simple archetypes of the Civil War

The Cavalier spirit that makes failure a glorious occasion



Let's hear it for failure. And in order to celebrate failure properly, let us go back to the Civil War. The most important results of this confrontation was nothing to do with constitutions, monarchy, parliament, religion or daily life. It was to provide us with a perfect pair of contrasting archetypes. All human beings in the world can be divided into two types: Roundheads, Right but Repulsive, and Cavaliers, Wrong but Wromantic.

Now, it is just possible that the alert reader might suspect that this is something of an over-simplification. What such a reader must do is to note that I am writing on the sports pages, those pages where the notion of excessive simplification is impossible. Sport deals only in excessive simplicities. True, you may find everywhere examples of subtlety of execution: a leg-side stumping, a free-kick round the wall, a forehand down the line, a deep screw shot. But there can never be subtlety of achievement. You win, or you don't win: such a matter cannot be over-simplified.

Therefore, sports people tend to confirm, in a rough and ready way, to the great, simple archetypes of the Civil War. Sportsmen are either Cavaliers or Roundheads.

Ultimate sporting Roundhead

Cricket teams sometimes calls themselves The Cavaliers. I never yet heard of one called The Roundheads, though perhaps there is one. If so, I expect Geoffrey Boycott controls it. He is the ultimate cricketing, indeed, the ultimate sporting Roundhead, dedicated to the mechanics of perfection. The qualities of the Roundhead are remorselessness, intransigence, inevitability. Though even Boycott has a streak within him, ruthlessly suppressed, of the Cavalier: witness his former tendency to impulsive hooking, his over-excitement at his hundreds - and no one who bowls with his cap on can be utterly without a certain Cavalier liking for nonsense.

If every one had their rights, Roundheads and Cavaliers would be distinguishable at a glance. You only had to look at George Best to realize that he was a Cavalier, one of the finest examples there has ever been: delightful and doomed. Whereas the man who used to mark him (whenever he got close enough) at Chelsea, Ron "Chopper" Harris, was nothing if not a Roundhead. It *was not merely that Harris was* bullet-headed: he looked as if he actually had a Roundhead's helmet on his head when he was bareheaded.

But things are not always so simple. Take Bjorn Borg: a Roundhead in Cavalier's clothing. For all his flowing hair, he was a purveyor of remoreselessness. It was his unflinching competence, rather than flashing genius, that remains his enduring memory. McEnroe looks far more like a proper Roundhead, but he is really a Cavalier, a genuine purveyor of intuitive brilliance. A Cavalier who skipped his lessons in courtliness.

Head-to-head battles between *Roundheads and Cavaliers are* a regular delight. One of the finest day's sport in the years was the snooker final between Steve Davis and Jimmy White. White, hopelessly eight frames adrift, went raving mad, "played his brains out", as Davis said, chasing impossible pots and impossible dreams, falling at the last but falling more gloriously than any winner ever succeeds.

Football is so full of Cavaliers that they have even invented a special term for them: luxury players. Players able to trap a ball and kick it beautifully are luxuries. Footballers able to trap a luxury player and kick him beautifully are the salt of the earth: proper, manly, non-pansified footballers.

Room for both in the game, they always say, room for both in the same team, with Glenn Hoddle, the most luxurious player around, in the same team as Graham "Referees seem to have it in for me" Roberts, who is, perhaps the world's least luxurious footballer.

But it seems to me that it is the Cavaliers who tend to suffer in team sports. Selectors prefer competence to excellence, probably because it is a commodity with which they can identify. If evidence were needed, then witness the international career of Derek Randall, a man who can be relied on in a crisis but not a cocktail party.

When excellence is sighted, it is disquieting. It is humbling. It is a *quality remote from the spectator*; hence the wish is to destroy it, to seek out the excellent man's demeaning qualities. Chase-and-harry footballers are not expected to curl 40-yard passes: luxury players are criticized because they do not chase and harry. Four doughty twenties is preferred to three ducks and a ton.

And, of course, *the Cavaliers* always seem to play up to their critics, failing in the most embarrassing moments for their supporters and blazing away like men possessed – for they are men possessed – when even I have given up on them.

Prince Rupert of an innings

Ah, Headingley, Headingley, I hear you sigh, ah, Headingley in 1981, when the ridiculous Ian Botham, the Cavalier's Cavalier, performed a veritable Prince Rupert of an innings. So great an innings that, like Kennedy's assassination, we can all remember where we were when we heard of it. I was on a ferry in th south China Sea, reading the *South China Morning Post*, I hurled the paper into the air in inexpressible delight. Botham even looked the perfect cavalier then: it is my belief that he is half the player without his beard.

Of course, people will tell me that competence, remorselessness, and gritty, grinding inevitability are a part of all games, and so they are. But give me fallibility. Indeed, give me failure. Give me failure illuminated with shafts of yet more exasperating brilliance. Give me a *single jewel* in the wreckage of disaster. Give me the wrong-handed tip-over, not the comfortable catch; the lofted drive, not the nudge round the corner. Give me glory. Victory is cheap in comparison. Let's hear it for failure.

CHEPSTOW (BBC)

[Televised: 1.0, 1.30, 2.5]

GOING: soft

1.0 NEWSBOY HANDICAP CHASE (£1,935: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

101 /0f110- DINGBAT (CD) (A Boyce) J Wright 8-12-1 ... K Mooney
105 up/p2f- MR PEACOCK (D) (Mrs B Collins) W G Turner 8-11-6 ... A Geering 4
106 p/04002 WALNUT WONDER (C) (R Hickman) R Hickman 8-11-5 ... G Charles-Jones 4
107 2840-82 LORD LEIGHTON (B) (S Hunt) L Kennard 8-11-5 ... B Powell
108 013-123 NICKLE MOPPETT (CD) (P Dresher) J Webber 7-11-0 ... G McCourt
110 2123- PENNY BANK (P Mellon) I Balding 5-10-10 ... B Reilly
111 21f12/ BRONCHO'S COUSIN (W Mackenzie-Coles) W Mackenzie-Coles 9-10-7 ... R Hoare
112 013-01p MISTY FORT (C) (J Summer) T Forster 8-10-7 ... R Dunwoody
113 32020-3 FIRE DRILL (P Norman) K Bishop 9-10-5 ... P Richards
116 0-02043 DISHCLOTH (C) (Lady S Brooke) Lady S Brooke 10-10-3 ... J Bryan
117 2f0-031 WILL BOREEN (D) (A Durkan) M McCormack 10-10-0 (5 ex) ... P Barton
118 00p23-2 HADAJAR (D) (A Morris) M Tate 9-10-0 ... C Smith
119 2130-34 CITADEL ROC (Miss R Dudley) J M Bradley 9-10-0 ... G Davies

1983: Dingbat 7-11-4 K Mooney (9-2) J Wright 11 ran

7-2 Nickle Moppett, 4 Penny Bank, 9-2 Lord Leighton, 6 Walnut Wonder, Fire Drill, 8 Will Boreen, 10 Misty Fort, 14 Hadajar, 16 Mr Peacock, 20 others.

FORM: WALNUT WONDER (10-11) 8l 2nd of 7 to Romany Nightshade (11-1) at Cheltenham (2m ch, £3,958, good to soft, Dec 8). LORD LEIGHTON (11-6) 7l 2nd of 11 to Charter Party (10-11) at Worcester (3m ch, £1,805, heavy, Dec 19). FIRE DRILL (11-7) 18l 3rd of 5 to Run And Skip (11-8) at Taunton (3m 1f ch, £1,576, soft, Dec 6). WILL BOREEN (11-5) beat Voice Of Progress (11-5) 1½l at Hereford with DISHCLOTH (11-0) 30l away last of 3 finishers (2m 4f ch, £1,192, soft, Dec 20, 5 ran). HADAJAR (10-3) 12l 2nd of 9 to Gamelek (10-4) with WILL BOREEN (10-4) beaten another 14l in 5th and WALNUT WONDER (11-9) 7th (Chepstow, 2m ch, £1,851, soft, Dec 1).
Selection: WILL BOREEN.

Chepstow selections

By Mandarin
1.00 Penny Bank. 1.30 Freeflow. 2.05 Planetman. 2.40 Fighter Pilot. 3.10 Rig Steel. 3.40 Notre Cheval.
By Michael Seely
2.05 Kumbi. 3.40 HOPEFUL SHOT (nap)

1.30 FINALE JUNIOR HURDLE (Grade II: 3-y-o: £5,451: 2m) (13)

201 321111 BEAT THE RETREAT (D) (D Steele) J Jenkins 11-3 ... M Perrett
202 13 JAMESMEAD (D)(BF) (L Becker) D Elsworth 11-3 ... C Brown
203 0 ACE OF SPIES (D Horswell) L Kennard 11-0 ... B Powell
204 p CATMAN (Miss I Ritchie) N Mitchell 11-0 ... Mr N Mitchell
205 pf COUNTRY CAP (R Townsend) W Kemp 11-0 ... Peter Hobbs
206 143 DOUBLE QUICK TIME (Mrs W McAlpine) R Smyth 11-0 ... R Berry
207 121f FREEFLOW (D) (G Richards) G Richards 11-0 ... N Doughty
208 GAMBLER'S CUP (E Turner) F Winter 11-0 ... J Francome
210 31 OUT OF THE GLOOM (D Lowe) R Hollinshead 11-0 ... J J O'Neill
211 00 STOCKSIGN (Mrs M Bevan) Mrs M Bevan 11-0 ... C Smith
212 211 STRATHEARN (A Budge) J Fitzgerald 11-0 ... R O'Leary
213 00 MAYSPRING (Lady S Brooke) Lady S Brooke 10-9 ... R Hyett
214 221 WORLING-PEARL (D) (T Stubbings) E Alston 10-9 ... K Doolan

1983: Dodgy Future 11-0 M Perrett (2-1) S Mellor 14 ran

11-4 Freeflow, 3 Beat The Retreat, 7-2 Jamesmead, 6 Out Of The Gloom, 8 Double Quick Time, 10 Strathearn, 16 Ace Of Spies, Worling-Pearl, 20 others.

FORM: BEAT THE RETREAT (11-3) had DOUBLE QUICK TIME (11-0) 8l back in 3rd when winning at Lingfield (2m hdle, £4,955, heavy, Dec 8, 10 ran). Previously, BEAT THE RETREAT (11-4) had JAMESMEAD (11-4) 4l back in 3rd when Sandown winner (2m hdle, £5,951, good to soft, Dec 1, 12 ran) with ACE OF SPIES (11-0) 32l away in 5th; FREEFLOW (11-0) was 2nd and in with every chance when falling at the last. JAMESMEAD (11-1) won at Ascot with OUT OF THE GLOOM (11-1) beaten 10l in 3rd and DOUBLE QUICK TIME (11-1) further 15l away 4th (2m hdle, £3,511, good [illegible]
Selection: BEAT THE RETREAT.

2.5 CORAL WELSH NATIONAL (Handicap chase: £19,132: 3m 6f) (18)

[illegible]

2.40 MOON NOVICE HURDLE (£1,463: 3m) (20)

[illegible]

3.10 SCOUT NOVICE CHASE (4-y-o: £1,313: 2m) (8)

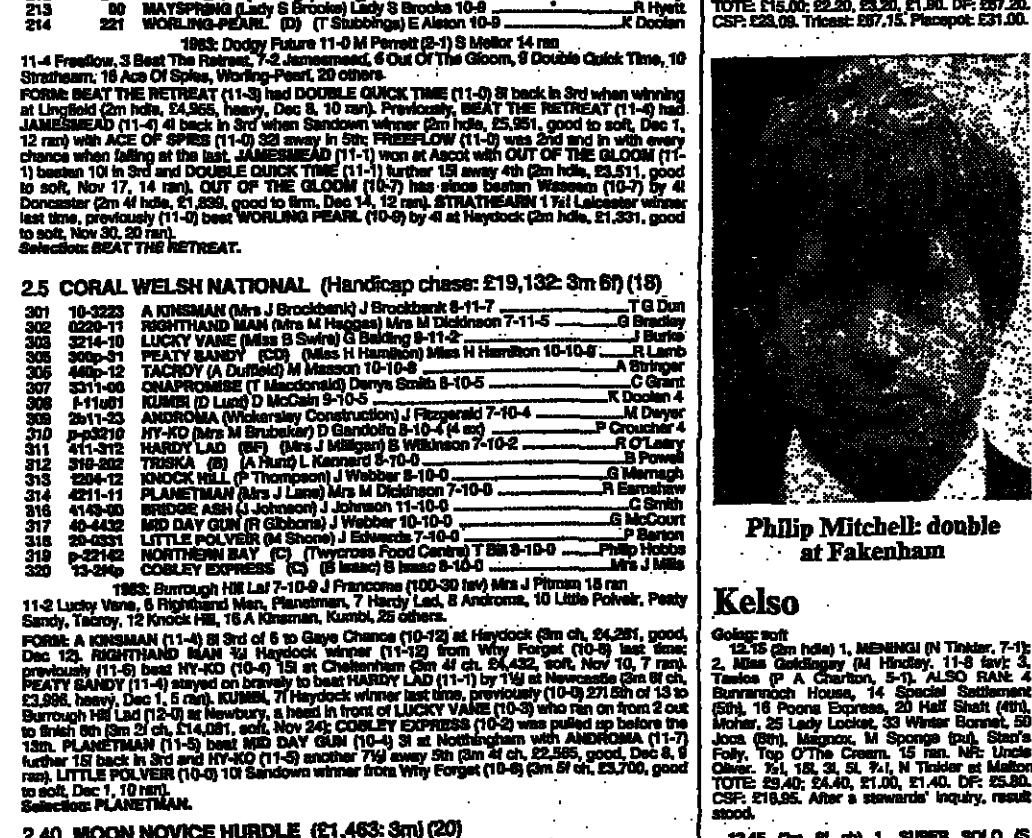
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3.40 KINGSBRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,099: 2m 4f) (22)

[illegible]

Fakenham results

[illegible]



Philip Mitchell: double at Fakenham

Kelso

[illegible]

● The Jockey Club has set up a working party under the chairmanship of the deputy senior steward, General Sir Cecil Blacker, to examine as a matter of urgency the implications of Sunday racing with on and off-course betting. The working party will report in time to participate in the general debate on the liberalization of Sunday trading, following last month's publication of the Auld Committee's report.

LINGFIELD PARK (ITV)

[Televised: 1.20, 1.50, 2.20]
Tote double: 1.50, 2.50. Treble: 1.20, 2.20, 3.20.

GOING: heavy

12.50 DAME ELIZABETH ACKROYD THREE-YEAR-OLD NOVICE HURDLE (£744: 2m) (21 runners)

[illegible]
19 p MARSH HARRIER (B) A Moore 10-10 ... G Moore
20 003 MEZIARA (BF) A Ingham 10-10 ... Steve Knight
21 MYLECONE D Oughton 10-10 ... G Enright
22 4 PARVENO B Wise 10-10 ... R Rowell
26 SARPAL R Champion 10-10 ... A Webb
28 SPARTAN BAZAAR K Cunningham-Brown 10-10 ... S Moore
32 0222 WASSEM J Jenkins 10-10 ... R Linley
33 YAZEED A Davison 10-10 ... –
34 04 YOUNG BUCKERS M Haynes 10-10 ... R McGhin
36 KERRY'S COURT A Moore 10-5 ... Miss C Moore 7
37 00 SNATCH BACK M Keegan 10-5 ... J Akehurst

1983: meeting abandoned - course waterlogged

13-8 Opening Bars, 7-2 Wassem, 5 Meziara, 8 Young Buckers, 10 Atkins, 12 Parveno, 16 Kilboon, 25 others.

Lingfield selections

By Mandarin
12.50 Wassem. 1.20 Whole Shebang. 1.50 Tom Tailor. 2.20 Maori Venture. 2.50 Magic Sky. 3.20 Mount Harvard.

1.20 TOTE PLACEPOT HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,288: 2m) (11)

1 0-002 DALBURY (D) P Haynes 6-11-11 ... P Corrigan 7
4 0-f41 EVERSEAL (CD) F Winter 4-11-1 ... N Fearn 7
5 1-002 WHOLE SHEBANG (CD) A Turnell 5-11-1 ... Steve Knight
8 1401- LOCHBOISDALE (D) J King 4-10-11 ... H Davies
10 100-0 GALLANT BUCK (D) D Elsworth 4-10-8 ... R Arnott 4
11 01-40 JACK O'LANTERN (CD) P Cundell 9-10-5 ... R Rowe
14 1p/p0 WINDBREAKER (D) A Moore 6-10-0 ... G Moore
15 00b-0 GOLDYKE (D) J Bosley 6-10-0 ... S Shilston
16 200-0 MARINE (D) G Balding 8-10-0 ... R Chapman 4
17 00/p- UNEQUAL HALVES B Wise 7-10-0 ... R Rowell
18 020p WATERHEAD D Oughton 4-10-0 ... P Double

15-8 Whole Shebang, 5-2 Everseal, 7-2 Dalbury, 8 Lochboisdale, 14 Gallant Buck, Jack O'Lantern, 20 others.

FORM: DALBURY (12-7) 1l 2nd, JACK O' LANTERN (11-1) 8th and GOLDYKE (10-5) 9th of 16 to Berlin (11-4) at Lingfield (2m hdle, £1,480, heavy, Dec 8). EVERSEAL (10-0) 2l Ascot winner from Janus (11-12) (2m hdle, £8,212, good to soft, Nov 17, 8 ran). WHOLE SHEBANG (10-7) beaten 5l and a neck in 3rd, but promoted to 2nd, behind Prideaux Boy (10-3) at Sandown (2m hdle, £11,444, good to soft, Dec 1, 14 ran). LOCHBOISDALE (10-10) stayed on strongly to beat Hill Street Blues (11-9) by 5l at Liverpool (2m 5½f hdle, £3,896, good, Mar 30, 13 ran).
Selection: EVERSEAL.

1.50 TOTE DUAL FORECAST HANDICAP CHASE (£2,313: 2m) (6)

2 333-3 RO'S OWEN (CD) T Forster 9-11-10 ... H Davies
4 1111 TOM TAILOR (D) F Armytage 7-11-7 (7 ex) ... A Webber
5 0801 ROCK SAINT (D) G Gregson 7-11-7 (7 ex) ... P Nicholls
[illegible]

2.20 TOTE TREBLE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,719: 3m) (7)

1 p-20f MAORI VENTURE (C) A Turnell 8-11-10 ... Steve Knight
3 2231 BOLD YEOMAN (CD) J Gifford 8-11-3 (7 ex) ... M Palmer 7
5 10-42 MANTON CASTLE R Armytage 10-11-0 ... A Webber
7 3412 ROUND THE TWIST (D) (BF) D Oughton 8-10-4 ... P Double
10 401p- ROMAN BISTRO (D) J Gifford 8-10-2 ... R Rowe
11 38043 SAUNDERS (CD) T Clay 10-10-0 ... G Moore
12 0423 MASTER NIBBLE (CD) C Holmes 9-10-0 ... A Webb

5-2 Manton Castle, 3 Bold Yeoman, 4 Round The Twist, 6 Maori Venture, 8 Saunders, 12 Master Nibble, 14 Roman Bistro.

FORM: MAORI VENTURE (10-11) in with every chance when a faller 4 out in Cheltenham event won by Door Latch (10-7) (3m 1f ch, £5,943, good to soft, Dec 7, 8 ran). BOLD YEOMAN (11-3) beat MANTON CASTLE (11-7) and SAUNDERS (10-8) by ¾l and 1½l over course and distance £4,612, soft Dec 8, 5 ran. ROUND THE TWIST (10-13) neck 2nd, MASTER NIBBLE (10-1) further 4l back in 3rd and SAUNDERS (10-5) 4th, beaten over a distance, to Tacroy (12-2) at Plumpton (3m 1f ch, £2,040, soft, Nov 28, 8 ran). ROMAN BISTRO, pulled up final start, earlier (11-7) 8l Towcester scorer from Fort Belvedere (10-11) (3m 1f ch, £1,398, firm, Apr 23, 4 ran).
Selection: MANTON CASTLE

2.50 TOTE DAILY DOUBLE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,858: 2m 4f) (13)

4 1100 TROPICAL MIST (B) D Elsworth 4-11-7 ... R Arnott 4
5 4-f10 QUELLE FARCE D Gandolfo 4-11-5 ... M Harrington
6 0120 ABOUSHABUN J Jenkins 4-11-5 ... –
7 0-021 GOLD OF A GUNNER S Mellor 4-11-5 ... G Charles-Jones 4
9 f330- PARADISE STRAITS (B) S Woodman 4-11-3 ... P Double
10 p104 MARTIAL COMMANDER C Read 4-11-0 ... H Davies
11 033/0 MAGIC SKY F Walwyn 6-10-13 ... S Shilston
12 0/200- IMPLICATION A Moore 5-10-10 ... Miss C Moore 7
14 b02f- THE PARROT R Parker 5-10-8 ... E Murphy 7
15 000-3 LUCKY IVOR R Hoad 5-10-3 ... M Hoad 7
16 000-3 PADDY O'MALLEY J Gifford 4-10-3 ... R Rowe
18 0040 WORDEL Mrs R Murdoch 6-10-0 ... J Akehurst
20 p-p00 AIRBORNE DEAL A Moore 5-10-0 ... G Moore

7-4 Gold Of A Gunner, 4 Tropical Mist, 5 Paddy O'Malley, 8 Aboushabun, Magic Sky, 12 Paradise Straits, Martial Commander.

3.20 SIR ALEXANDER GLEN NOVICE CHASE (£1,180: 2m) (4)

2 000-0 EUSEBIO (D) D Oughton 6-11-2 ... P Double
4 03-2b MOUNT HAVARD (BF) N Henderson 8-11-2 ... J White
6 4300 REBEL STAR B Wise 6-11-2 ... R Rowell
8 0-p00 BIC ROLLER J Bridger 5-10-9 ... A Jones 7

1-4 Mount Harvard, 6 Rebel Star, 8 Eusebio, 20 Bic Roller.

NOTTINGHAM

GOING: good to soft

12.30 TOLLERTON NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: £559: 2m) (13 runners)

3 3-2 CONSCRIPTION J Leigh 4-10-10 ... P Blackburn 7
4 00 FIEFDOM G Vergette 4-10-10 ... S Johnson
7 0-00 LITTLE BAY T Bill 4-10-10 ... G Williams 7
8 MAN IN GREY G Pritchard-Gordon 4-10-10 ... S Smith-Eccles
12 MR QUICK W Wharton 5-10-10 ... M Brennan
13 000 NATIONAL DEBT (B) Mrs J Pitman 5-10-10 ... P Tuck
14 0-0 RUCKLEY P Rohan 4-10-10 ... M Pepper
15 00- SHANOUSKA J Harris 4-10-10 ... J A Harris
17 300-u AVENITA LADY Mrs A Finch 4-10-5 ... S Keightley
18 00 COLONIAL CHARM C Spares 4-10-5 ... J McLaughlin
19 33 ELUSIVE SPIRIT Mrs M Rimell 4-10-5 ... S Morshead
20 030-0 HIGH STATE P Felgate 4-10-5 ... T Wooley 7
21 0- HOT BETTY R Thompson 4-10-5 ... Jayne Thompson 7

1983: no corresponding meeting

9-4 Elusive Spirit, 3 Conscription, 9-2 Man In Grey, 7 Colonial Charm, 8 Mr Quick, 12 Avenita Lady, High State, 16 others.

Nottingham selections

By Mandarin
12.30 Man In Grey. 1.0 STATE CASE (nap). 1.30 Nassau Royale. 2.0 Geata An Uisce. 2.30 Green Bramble. 3.0 Sacred Path.
Michael Seely's Selection: 1.0 State Case.

1.0 COLWICK HANDICAP CHASE (£1,203: 2m) (5)

[illegible]

1.30 TOLLERTON NOVICE HURDLE (Div II: £567: 2m) (13)

1 433-1 CORN STREET (D) J Bosley 6-11-3 ... Mr M Bosley 7
2 1 SEA REPPIN (D) J Leigh 4-11-3 ... P Blackburn
5 ARTFUL CHARLEY J Fitzgerald 4-10-10 ... P Tuck
6 00/f BALLYMURPHY Mrs A Finch 6-10-10 ... S Keightley
8 00-00 CAPTAIN PRY D Nicholson 4-10-10 ... P Scudamore
9 0-300 CRUDEN BAY P Felgate 4-10-10 ... S McNeill
11 3442 FUDGE DELIGHT O Brennan 5-10-10 ... M Brennan
13 HOPEFUL MISSION Mrs M Dickinson 5-10-10 ... NON-RUNNER
20 p BROWN SANDS (B) G Vergette 4-10-5 ... –
22 43 NASSAU ROYALE (BF) Mrs M Rimell 4-10-5 ... S Morshead
23 0 NETHERDAR W Wharton 4-10-5 ... –
24 0-p02 SPANISH BOLD M Ryan 4-10-5 ... J McLaughlin
25 SUTTONS HILL A James 4-10-5 ... G Jones

5-2 Nassau Royale, 4 Corn Street, 5 Spanish Bold, 6 Fudge Delight, 8 Sea Reppin, 12 Captain Pry, 16 others.

2.0 SOUTH YORKSHIRE ROAD SPECIALISTS NOVICE CHASE (£1,724: 3m) (12)

1 0-u01 BALLYGROOBY (B) R Perkins 7-11-5 ... Dai Williams
2 0331 COVENT GARDENN (C) W Clay 6-11-5 ... S J O'Neill
3 0144 GEATA AN UISCE O Brennan 6-11-5 ... M Brennan
4 pp-10 LIZMOR R Champion 5-11-4 ... S Smith-Eccles
7 ofup CRICKET WOOD H Wharton 6-11-1 ... –
8 p-f DANILOU P Pritchard 6-11-1 ... –
12 00/p MACBETH T Bill 6-11-1 ... G Williams 7
14 34-0p THE LAST PRINCE M H Easterby 7-11-1 ... D Dutton
16 0 BLUE SPECKLE K White 6-10-10 ... P Finch 7
19 1-004 PAKA LOLA J Fitzgerald 7-10-10 ... P Tuck
20 004/4 SOPHISTICATED Mrs A Tomkinson 6-10-10 ... Mr S Sowersby 7
21 WOLD WALK Mrs C Clark 6-10-10 ... C Pimlott

5-2 Geata An Uisce, 100-30 Covent Garden, 4 The Last Prince, 5 Paka Lola, 7 Lizmor, 8 Ballygrooby, 14 Sophisticated, 16 others.

2.30 BINGHAM HANDICAP CHASE (£1,629: 2m 6f) (7)

[illegible]

3.0 CLIFTON CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£883: 2m 6f) (14)

[illegible]
6 0/21-p LONE RAIDER J L Harris 7-10-3 ... Vicki Harris
8 0014- MOUNTAINEER J Leigh 5-10-2 ... P Blackburn
9 0300 ROUTE MARCH P Pritchard 5-10-1 ... G Willems
10 00u-p JUKE BOX JIMMY (B) J Doyle 6-10-0 ... J D Davies
11 0410 MARSINH L Lightbrown 5-10-0 ... K Sims
12 0042 NORTHERN KNIGHT R Thompson 7-10-0 ... Jayne Thompson
13 313f- STEP ASHORE Mrs K Coulman 5-10-0 ... D Mills
14 03-00 INCENSE P Bevan 4-10-0 ... R Hatfield
17 p400 PANROCK J Cosgrave 4-10-0 ... T Pinfield

3 Misty Dale, 4 Village Draper, 6 Sacred Path, 7 Bleathwood, Route March, 10 Marsinh, Mountaineer, 12 Northern Knight, 16 Step Ashore, 20 others.

Two-day ban for O'Gorman

The claiming rider, Joe O'Gorman, aged 18, was suspended for two days for careless riding at Kelso yesterday on Tarchin in the Cardona Handicap Hurdle. O'Gorman, whose ban takes effect on December 30 and 31, took his mount ahead after the last to beat Albertat and Thorbell Arch, but Steve Charlton, the rider of the Third, objected to Tarchin for "crossing and sandwiching on the run-in."

After a lengthy inquiry, the stewards upheld Charlton's objection and disqualified Tarchin, placing him fourth. Albertat was awarded the race, with Thorbell Arch, second and Armenistis, third.

Tarchin's trainer, John Leadbetter, said afterwards that he would appeal against the stewards decision. "It was very unfair. If O'Gorman was guilty of careless riding my horse should have been placed last."

Albertat's victory completed a double for Chris Grant, who earlier *partnered* Reays Song an eight lenghts winner of the Elibank Selling Hurdle. Grant has now ridden 20 winners this season.

Super Solo made it two wins at Kelso within a week when landing the Keilder Handicap Chase. The seven-year-old, who has suffered from muscle trouble in his back, now bids for a treble in the Gamebird Handicap Chase at Newcastle next week.

Course specialists

CHEPSTOW
TRAINERS: F Winter 20 winners from 77 runners, 26.0%; D Gandolfo 9 from 37, 24.3%; T Forster 17 from 80, 21.3%.
JOCKEYS: G Bradley 4 winners from 7 rides, 57.1%; J Francome 23 from 101, 27.7%; P Barton 9 from 48, 19.1%.

LINGFIELD
TRAINERS: F Winter 26 winners from 71 runners, 36.6%; R Armytage 16 from 49, 32.7%; P Cundell 5 from 21, 23.8%.
JOCKEYS: Steve Knight 9 winners from 28 rides, 32.1%; H Davies 19 from 76, 25.0%; P Double 4 from 22, 18.2%.

NOTTINGHAM
TRAINERS: F Winter 6 winners from 13 runners, 33.3%; N Henderson 10 from 50, 20.0%; D Nicholson 16 from 91, 17.6%.
JOCKEYS: S Smith Eccles 18 winners from 67 rides, 26.9%; P Charlton 6 from 31, 19.4%; P Scudamore 24 from 124, 19.4%.

SKIING



Miss Kirchler: clean sweep

Austrian women dominant

Santa Caterina, Italy (AFP) – The Austrian women's Alpine skiing team began their end of year break on a high note after taking first three places in the World Cup downhill race here yesterday, on part of the course that will host the world championship in February.

Elisabeth Kirchler, aged 21, narrowly outpaced her team colleagues Veronika Vitzhum and Katrin Gutensohn to register her fourth World Cup victory and to end a barren spell in downhill racing for the Austrian women, whose last success was Miss Kirchler's victory at Megève in January, 1983.

It was the first time Austria had taken all three leading places in a downhill since Brigite Totschenig, Anne-Marie Proell and Nicole Spiess achieved the feat at Zell-am-Zee in 1976.

The Olympic champion, Michela Figini, of Switzerland, took fourth place, but Austria had three other skiers in the top 10, with Sieglinde Winkler finishing fifth, Sigrid Wolf seventh and Veronika Wallinger ninth. The Austrian team made a better interpretation of the condition of the piste than their Swiss rivals, who had been expected to dominate the race.

Sixth position went to Marina Kiehl, of West Germany, who retained the World Cup lead,

RESULTS: 1, E Kirchler (Austria), 1min 24.80secs; 2, V Vitzhum (Austria), 1:24.78; 3, K Gutensohn (Austria), 1:24.88; 4, M Figini (Switz), 1:25.05; 5, S Winkler (Austria), 1:25.19; 6, M Kiehl (WG), 1:25.24; 7, S Wolf (Austria), 1:25.32; 8, C Quittet (Fr), 1:25.35; 9, V Wallinger (Austria), 1:25.40; 10, L Graham (Can), 1:25.41; equal 11, Z Haas (Switz) and A Ehrat (Switz), 1:25.48; 13, R Hoesenlechner (WG), 1:25.55; 14, M Gros-Gaudenier (Fr), 1:25.58; 15, M Marzola (It), 1:25.71.
STANDINGS: Downhill: 1, Kirchler, 37 pts; equal 2, Haas and Kiehl, 30; 4, Vitzhum, 29; 5, Gutensohn, 19; 6, Figini, 17; 7, Ehrat, 16; 8, I Epple (WG), 15; 9, Winkler, 11; 10, M Gerg (WG), 10.
Overall: 1, Kiehl, 88 pts; 2, Kirchler, 70; 3, E Hess, (Switz), 59; 4, C Guignard (Fr), 57; 5, Haas, 55; 6, B Oertli (Switz), 54; 7, M Walliser (Switz), 48; 8, M Epple (WG), 48; 9, Gerg, 47; 10, T Haecher (WG), 46.

ATHLETICS

French will close on Hutchings

By Pat Butcher

The French have found a way to ensure that Tim Hutchings does not leave his opponents behind from the start as he has done in his races over the last five weeks. The organizers of tomorrow's 5km road race at Issy-les-Moulineaux, on the outskirts of Paris, have borrowed an idea from France's favourite sport, cycling, and have made the two-lap race into a time trial with the runners going off at 30 second intervals.

In the tradition of Tour de France prologues, each runner will be followed by a car bearing his name. This form of racing, but as handicaps, with differing time gaps according to form, used to be very popular in Britain, both in road and track racing, and is still widley used for the traditional club races at Christmas. But a revival of a different sort is in order for New Year's Eve in Mountain Ash.

The Nos Galan (Welsh for New Year) race, in memory of the legendary Guto Nythbran, was celebrated from 1958 to 1973 when it was discontinued due to police complaints about "traffic disruption". The race was famous for its "mystery runner", who would bring a flaming tourch frim Guto's grave at Llanwonno to Mountain Ash for the midnight start, which would often be contested by a thousand runners, an extraordinary number for the pre-boom days of participation running. The Cynon Valley borough council have agreed to lift the ban on the race.

ICE HOCKEY

Dundee given hope of compensation

Dundee Rockets, the British champions, may gain some financial aid for their travels in the European Cup this season and last *(Robert Pryce writes)*. The Sports Council of Great Britain are prepared to consider an application on their behalf from the British Ice Hockey Association (BIHA), a Sports Council spokesman said yesterday.

As revealed in yesterday's editions of *The Times*, Dundee were deprived of about £6,000 because the BIHA failed to apply for grant aid. The grant is intended to cover 75 per cent of a club's travel expenses in the European Cup.

● The headline in yesterday's editions of *The Times* was misleading in suggesting that the Sports Council had made an error in not making a grant to Dundee. As the story made clear, no application for a grant was made by the BIHA.

CRICKET

England's conquest of the East has a hollow ring

Gauhati (Press Association) – England cantered to victory by an innings and 121 runs here yesterday morning when they bowled out East Zone for 52 in two hours. It was England's first win over an Indian zonal side for 20 years, Mike Smith's team beating South Zone in 1964.

Although England's bowlers, particularly Foster and Edmonds, carried out a highly professional demolition job yesterday, there was a hollow ring about the victory. East are recognized as the weakest zonal team in India and the poor wicket in the Nehru Stadium was ripe for exploitation.

Nevertheless England must be surprised that East Zone,

Scoreboard

ENGLAND: First innings 290 (G Fowler 114; A Kumar 5 for 81)

EAST ZONE: First innings 117 (A Lal 42; V J Marks 4 for 48)

Second Innings

K Dubey, c Gatting, b Foster	8
A Lal, c Cowdrey, b Foster	2
A Mitra, c Cowdrey, b Foster	0
A Jayaprakash, l-b-w b Cowans	2
A Bharadwaj, b Marks	30
A Das, b Edmonds	3
R Deora, c Gatting, b Edmonds	0
R Singh, run out	0
A Sinha, c French, b Edmonds	0
D Doshi, b Edmonds	0
A Kumar, not out	6
Extras (b 1)	1
Total	52

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-3, 3-12, 4-14, 5-17, 6-27, 7-37, 8-38, 9-38, 10-52.

BOWLING: Foster, 15-6-32-3; Cowans, 6-3-4-1; Edmonds, 9-3-13-4; Marks 0.4-0-2-1.

who were one for no wicket overnight and following on 153 runs behind on first innings, capitulated so quickly. Foster began the rout when, with only two runs added, he had Arun Lal and Avik Mitra caught by Cowdrey at short leg from successive balls. Then, at 12, an outswinger from Foster saw Karun Dubey held at slip.

There was a spate of missed England catches, with the normally reliable Mike Gatting and Graeme Fowler at fault. Allan Lamb also dropped Anil Bharadwaj first ball when the batsman was facing a "king pair" and East Zone could have been 12 for six. Bharadwaj went



Neil Foster: the man who started the rout of East Zone

on to a top score of 30, but Lamb's miss at second slip could hardly be described as expensive.

After six overs from Cowans had cost only four runs for the wicket of Ashjit Jayaprakash, England turned to the spin of Edmonds. The conditions were ideal for the Middlesex man, who quickly bowled Amal Das.

has Rajiv Deora caught at slip and Akhiles Sinha stumped. Edmonds also bowled Doshi to finish with figures of four for 13 in nine overs and a match analysis of six for 38.

Randiri Singh was run out for nought and the other wicket fell to Vic Marks, who bowled Bharadwaj with his fourth ball of the innings.

Steele gives up at 43 the doughty fight

David Steele, the Northamptonshire all-rounder, has retired from first-class cricket after 22 seasons. He played in eight Test matches for Englnd and made his debut fot Northamptonshire in 1963. He went to Derbyshire as captain in 1979 but returned to Northamptonshire after three years.

Steele, aged 43, said yesterday: "When you come to the end of a season you tend to forget the aches and pains but the limbs are getting older and I have decided that this is the time to go. "I have been offered a contract for next season by the county and I did consider it carefully. I will accept a good offer I have received from a club in the Birmingham and District League."

Steele was 33 when England gave him his first chance, against Australia, at Lord's in 1975. He scored 50 in his first innings and that season he emerged as a doughty fighter.

Jesty leaves Hampshire

Trevor Jesty, aged 36, the former England all-rounder, has been released at his own request by Hampshire, the club he has served for 18 years, following the appointment yesterday of Mark Nicholas as captain. Nicholas, nine years Jesty's junior, was named as successor to Nick Pocock, whose resignation half-way through last season prompted Jesty to give up the vice-captaincy when Nicholas took over instead.

Jesty, who played for England in 10 one-day internationals in 1983, said Hampshire have consistently refused to tell him why he was not made captain when Pocock resigned. "If they had told me the real reason I might have been prepared to stay on", he said.

Jesty, the only Hampshire-born player in the first-team squad, blames the club's preference for captains educated at public school for the way he has been squeezed out.

Jesty went to a secondary modern school, in Gosport, and believes this may have hindered him for the top job. "I thought things were changing



Jesty: squeezed out

in cricket, with people like Gatting and Botham leading their counties, but in Hampshire's case they obviously still prefer public schoolboys."

Sussex and Nottinghamshire have both contacted Jesty, who scored 14,753 runs and took 475 wickets for Hampshire.

Meanwhile, Hampshire have announced a profit of £30,583.

HOCKEY

Blackheath hope to get off the ground

By Sydney Friskin

Blackheath, who were runners-up last season to East Grinstead in the National Club championship, are without a point at the bottom of the premier division in the London League, sponsored to Atari. They are hoping to get off the ground when they entertain **Richmond** today.

The task will not be easy against a well-balanced Richmond side whose resources in attack include Atkinson, a Cambridge Blue, and Girdwood. They are also well served at the back by Newton and by Philby in goal. Richmond have only one win in four matches, two of which have been drawn.

Among Blackheath's problems is the absence of Butt, their resourceful inside forward, whose place in the attack is taken by his brother, Wasim, promoted from the second XI. He will play at centre forward and Imtiaz will move to inside left.

Bob Cattrall, who recently returned from Karachi with the Great Britain bronze medal winning team, will make his first appearance for **Hounslow** against **Old Kingstonians** in the percentage league of the same competition.

Westcliff, who are fourth in the premier division of the East League, sponsored by Norwich Union, are at full strength for their home match against **Bishops Stortford**. With Marriner in defence, Anderson in the middle and French to lead the attack, Westcliff hope to improve their position. Bishops Stortford are ninth, one below Broxbourne.

Peter Nicholson, who was on duty with the England indoor squad, will not play for **Lancashire** in the crucial Boxing Day match against **Cheshire** at Liverpool Sefton, where the Northern division of the county championship will be decided. If Cheshire lose or draw, Lancashire and Yorkshire will qualify for the national rounds of the competition.

Lancashire have three teenagers, Cartnell, David and Michael Cooke in their forward line, and also Ferns from the England Under-21 squad. Cheshire are at full strength except that *Robbie Smith*, their centre forward, is still troubled by his injured Achilles tendon.

RACKETS

Schoolboy joins elite roll of Cup winners

Rupert Owen-Browne, the outstanding schoolboy player from Tonbridge, joined the elite roll of winners of the H. J. Foster Cup, which includes former world champions, William Surtees and Howard Angus, when he defeated David Dick, of Harrow yesterday by 15-12, 15-6, 10-15, 15-5 at Queen's Club (William Stephens writes).

Owen-Browne has the finest backhand since Surtees, the double-handed stroke engendering astonishing attacking power like a coiled spring, even from unfavourable and awkward positions. Athough an exciting left-handed batsman, his forehand is right-handed.

Dick colly volleyed the bullet-like services, parrying them resourcefully to a length, and thoughfully placed soft balls to control the pace in the rallies, but his careful slow services invited Owen-Browne to unleash wristy kills.

RESULTS: H J Foster Cup final: R Owen-Browne (Tonbridge) beat D G Dick (Harrow) 15-12, 15-6, 10-15, 15-5. Renny Cup final: M A Smythe-Osbourne (Eton) beat G W Devereux (Rugby) 18-14, 11-15, 13-18, 17-14, 15-10.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL, RUGBY AND OTHER FIXTURES

3.0 unless stated

First division

Arsenal v Watford
Aston Villa v Newcastle United
Everton v Chelsea
Manchester United v Ipswich Town
Norwich City v Tottenham
Sheffield Wed v Stoke City
West Ham United v Southampton

Second division

Cardiff City v Sheffield United
Fulham v Manchester City
Grimsby Town v Middlesbrough
Huddersfield Town v Brighton
Notts County v Charlton
Portsmouth v Oxford United
Wimbledon v Birmingham City
Wolverhampton v Leeds United

GOLA LEAGUE: Barnet v Frickley, Dagenham v Kidderminster; Kettering v Barrow, Maidstone v Bath; Nuneaton v Gateshead, Scarborough v Boston United; Telford v Runcorn; Wealdstone v Altrincham; Weymouth v Enfield; Worcester v Northwich; Yeovil v Dartford.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Windsor and Eton v Harrow. Postponed Wokingham v Bishop's Stortford. First division: Aveley v Oxford City; Chesham v Lewes, Hornchurch v Farnborough; Leatherhead v Hertford; Staines v Hertford. Second division, north: Tring v Haringey. Second division, south: Camberley v Ruislip Manor; Hungerford v Southall; Molesey v Horsham.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Posponed Southampton v Arsenal (2.0).

IRISH LEAGUE (2.15): Bangor v Ballymena; Coleraine v Ards, Crusaders v Newry; Distillery v Portadown, Glenavon v Carrick; Glentoran v Cliftonville (3.0), Larne v Linfield.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier Division: AP Leamington v Trowbridge, Bedworth v Crawley; Corby v Fareham; Fisher v Folkestone and Shepway; Gloucester v RS Southampton; Gravesend and Northfleet v Cheltenham; King's Lynn v Alvechurch; Shepshed Charterhouse v Hastings United, Willenhall v Welling; Witney v Chelmsford. Midland Division: Aylesbury v Milton Keynes; Bridgnorth v Stourbridge; Dudley v Hednesford; Leicester United v Bromsgrove; Moor Green v Banbury; Oldbury v Merthyr Tydfil; Rushden v VS Rugby; Sutton Coldfield v Forest Green; Wellingborough v Coventry Sporting. Southern Division: Andover v Hillingdon; Ashford v Woodford; Basingstoke v Chatham; Cambridge v Erith and Belvedere; Gosport v Dunstable; Poole v Sheppey; Salisbury v Addlestone and Weybridge; Thanet v Canterbury; Tonbridge v Dover; Waterlooville v Dorchester.

FA VASE: Third round (1.30): Brandon v Heswall; Blue Star v Armthorpe Welfare; Ford Motors (Liverpool) v Guisborough; Chester-Le-Street v Coundon; Fleetwood v Warrington; Easington Collieries v Bedlington Trinity; Buckingham v Wythenshaw Amateurs (3.0); Hucknall CW v Atherstone; Lincoln United v Wolverhampton United; Rushall v Eastwood (Hanley) (3.0); Rainworth MW v Skegness; Louth v Oadby (2.0); Halesowen v Stamford (3.0); Wisbeck v Heybridge Swifts (3.0); Finchley v Stansted (3.0), Braintree v Wivenhoe (3.0). Bury Town v Gorleston (2.30); Sudbury v VS Rugby (3.0); Egham v Leyton-Wingate (3.0); Alma Swanley v Tunbridge Wells; Cray v Steyning, Harefield v Marlow (3.0); Bracknell v Collier Row (3.15); Uxbridge v Eastbourne United (3.0); Cheshunt v Wallingford (3.0); Exmouth v Newport IOW; Sholing Sports v Bristol Manor Farm; Old Georgians v Wimborne; Sharpness v Supermarine; Shortwood v Torrington

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: (2.15): Premier Division: Amersham v Hanwell (3.0); Beckton v Redhill; Brimsdown v Swanley Town; Burnham v BROB Barnet (3.0); Beaconsfield v Edgware; Corinthian Casuals v Pennant, Danson v Thatcham; Northwood v Waltham Abbey (3.0). Harry Sunderland Shield (2.15): Southwark v Crown and Manor; Yeading v Chingford; Royal Arsenal v Wandsworth; Barkingside v North Greenford.

SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First Division: Arundel v Wick; Eastbourne Town v Peacehaven, Hastings Town v Burgess Hill; Lancing v Whitewick, Littlehampton v

Third division

Bolton v Cambridge United
Bristol Rovers v Swansea City
Burnley v Walsall
Derby County v Newport County
Doncaster Rovers v Gillingham
Hull City v Brentford
Lincoln City v Bradford City
Plymouth Argyle v Millwall
Reading v Bristol City (12.0)
Rotherham v Wigan

Fourth division

Hartlepool United v Chester
Mansfield Town v Northampton
Port Vale v Scunthorpe United
Swindon Town v Halifax Town
Torquay United v Southend United
Wrexham v Blackpool

Hailsham; Midhurst v Horsham YMCA, Ringmer v Three Bridges

UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne v Desborough; Eynesbury v Long Buckby; Holbeach v Brackley; Newport Pagnell v Baldock, Potton v Rothwell; Raunds v Ampthill; Stotfold v St Neots; Wootton v Arlesey.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Brentwood v Halstead; Chelmsford v Sawbridgeworth; Coggeshall v East Thurrock, Eton Manor v Ford, Witham v Brightlingsea.

ESSEX SENIOR TROPHY: East Ham v Saffron Walden (2.0)

Joey Jones: may return for Chelsea at Everton this afternoon, having proved his fitness following a cartilage operation

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE (2.0): Premier Division: Foresters v Carthusians; Westminsters v Cholmeleians. First division; Bradfieldians v Reptonians, Salopians v Harrovians; Wellingburians v Citizens; Wykehamists v Ardinians.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE (11.0): First division: Charlton v West Ham; Chelsea v Fulham; Orient v Norwich; Portsmouth v Millwall; Queens Park Rangers v Ipswich; Watford v Gillingham. Cup: Second Round Replay: Southend v Tottenham. Second division: Brentford v Crystal Palace; Luton v West Ham; Oxford v Tottenham; Reading v Swindon.

EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Brantham v Great Yarmouth; Chatteris v Haverhill; Ely v Colchester United Reserves; Histon v Lowestoft; Felixstowe v Thetford; Tiptree v Soham.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia v Ferryhill; North Shields v Peterlee; Ryhope v Whitby; Shildon v Horden Colliery Welfare; Spennymoor v Tow Law. League Cup, second round: Gretna v South Bank. Third round: Crook v Durham City.

DURHAM CHALLENGE CUP, first round: Bishop Auckland v Seaham; Wingate v Consett.

Scottish premier division

Aberdeen v Dundee United
Celtic v Rangers (2.0)

Scottish first division

Airdrieonians v Brechin City
Clydebank v Falkirk
East Fife v Hamilton
Forfar Athletic v Ayr United
Kilmarnock v Clyde
Meadowbank v St Johnstone
Partick Thistle v Motherwell

Scottish second division

Dunfermline v Montrose
East Stirling v Stirling Albion
Queen of South v Albion Rovers
Queen's Park v Berwick
Raith Rovers v Cowdenbeath
Stenhousemuir v Alloa Athletic
Stranraer v Arbroath

ESSEX SENIOR CUP: Third round: *Walthamstow v Harlow.*

ESSEX THAMES-SIDE TROPHY: First round: Grays v Leytonstone and Ilford.

WESTERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Liskeard; Bristol City Reserves v Clandown, Clevedon v Plymouth Argyle Reserves; Dawlish v Barnstaple; Melksham v Chard; Minehead v Shepton Mallet; Paulton v Devizes; Weston-super-Mare v Chippenham.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE (2.0): Cove v Fleet; Cranleigh v BAE (Weybridge); Frimley v Ash; Godalming v Southwick; Horley v Farleigh (3.0); Malden Vale v Chobham; Virginia Water v Malden; Westfield v Cobham.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE – Premier Division: Appleby Frodingham v Alfreton; Bentley Victoria v Arnold; Bridlington Trinity v Thackley; Denaby v Emley; Guiseley v Belper; Ilkeston v Eastwood; Mexborough v Boston; Pontefract Collieries v Heanor.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Burscough v Lancaster City; Caernarfon v Radcliffe; Congleton v Accrington Stanley; Curzon Ashton v Prescot Cables; Formby v Netherfield; Leek v Bootle; Penrith v Glossop; St Helens v Leyland Motors; Stalybridge Celtic v Winsford

FA TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Billericay v Bishop's Stortford; Bootle v South Liverpool (2.0).

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Cup, first round, second leg: Marine (3) v Witton Albion (0); Morecambe (0) v Southport (2). League: Burton v Workington; Goole v Buxton.

HELLENIC LEAGUE (2.15): Premier Division: Abingdon Town v Almondsbury Greenway; Didcot v Abingdon United; Fairford v Thame; Hounslow v Clanfield; Maidenhead Town v Moreton; Morris Motors v Bicester; Wantage v Rayners Lane.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First Division: Birmingham v Sunderland (8.0); Bolton v Liverpool and Warrington (8.0); Worthing v Crystal Palace (8.0), Telford v Manchester (8.0); Leicester v Hemel Watford (7.30). Second division: Derby v Calderdale (8.0); Sandwell v Stoke (8.0). Swindon v Nottingham (8.0). First division (Women): Worthing Wasps v Northampton (6.0); Bolton v Crystal Palace (6.0).

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH

Edinburgh v Anglo Scots (at Myreside, 2.15)
Glasgow v North & Midlands (at Hughenden) (2.15)

CLUB MATCHES

Bedford v Orrell
Boroughmuir v Heriot's FP (2.15)
Cardiff v Bridgend
Coventry v Rosslyn Pk
Edinburgh Wdrs v Edinburgh Acads (2.15)
Fylde v Sheffield (2.15)
Glamorgan Wdrs. v Bristol
Glasgow Acads. v Highland (2.15)
Gloucester v Newport
Haddington v Stewarts/Mel FP (2.15)
Hawick v Langholm (2.15)
Headingley v Wakefield (2.30)
Huddersfield v Morley (2.30)
Jed-Forest v Melrose (2.15)
Jordanhill v West of Scotland (2.15)
Kelso v Gala (2.15)
Liverpool v Birkenhead Pk (2.30)
Llanelli v Sth Wales Police
London Welsh v Leicester (2.15)
Lydney v Cross Keys (2.30)
Maesteg v Aberavon
Middlesbrough v Gosforth (2.15)
Moseley v Ebbw Vale
Neath v Plymouth Albion
New Brighton v Hartlepool Rovers
Northampton v Nuneaton
Nottingham v Rugby
Penarth v Newbridge
Pontypool v Bath
Richmond v Harlequins (2.30)
Roundhay v Harrogate (2.15)
Saracens v Exeter (2.30)
Swansea v Abertillery
Vale of Lune v Broughton Pk (2.15)
Wasps v Blackheath (2.30)
West Hartlepool v Hull & E.R. (2.15)

IRISH TRIAL: Probables v Possibles (at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, 2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

JOHN PLAYER TROPHY: Quarter-final: St. Helens v Halifax (2.15).

HOCKEY

LONDON LEAGUE (2.15): Premier Division: Blackheath v Richmond. League: Cheam v Spencer; Dulwich v Surbiton; Hounslow v Old Kingstonians; Maidenhead v Wimbledon; Purley v Bromley; Reading v Teddington; Southgate v Hawks.

EAST LEAGUE: Premier Division: Ford v Ipswich

CLUB MATCHES: Aylesbury v Amersham; Canterbury v Gore Court.

LACROSSE

NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: Cheadle v Timperley; Heaton Mersey v Old Hulmeians; Mellor v Old Stopfordians; Old Waconians v Sheffield University; Sale v South Manchester and Wythenshawe; Stockport v Sheffield.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: Hillcroft v Beckenham; Purley v Chipstead.

TOMORROW

3.0 unless stated

FOOTBALL

FIRST DIVISION: Leicester City v Coventry City; Sunderland v Nottingham Forest.

SECOND DIVISION: Carlisle United v Blackburn Rovers; Oldham Athletic v Barnsley (11.30).

FOURTH DIVISION: Hereford United v Aldershot (3.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

JOHN PLAYER TROPHY: Quarter-finals: Dewsbury v Hull (3.30); Hull Kingston Rovers v Widnes; Leeds v Bramley.

FIRST DIVISION: Castleford v Barrow (3.30); Hunslet v Wigan (3.30).

SECOND DIVISION: Batley v Mansfield Marksmen (2.30); Doncaster v Carlisle (2.30); Keighley v Rochdale Hornets (3.15); Salford v Sheffield Eagles; Southend Invicta v Swinton; Wakefield Trinity v Huddersfield (3.30).

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Kingston v Solent (4.0). Second division: Tyneside v Camden (4.0); Colchester v Swindon (4.0); Nottingham v Tower Hamlets (4.0). First division (Women): Nottingham v Sheffield Hatters (2.0).

HOCKEY

REPRESENTIVE MATCHES (at Bury St Edmunds): Suffolk v RAF; Suffolk U21 v RAF U21.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM

BIRTHS

MARRIAGES

DEATHS

BIRTHDAYS

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

JOH 2E

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

DEATHS

WILD. – On December 19th, 1984, suddenly in Cambridge, Frank, aged 68, dearly loved husband of Janet and father of Jane and John. Requiem Mass at Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge, on Thursday, December 27th, at 11am. Family flowers only please.

IN MEMORIAM

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ANIMALS AND BIRDS

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SUNDAY'S RADIO

From the facing page

SUNDAY'S WORLD SERVICE

Radio 4

صكذا من الاصل

Saturday

Television and radio programmes
Summaries: Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

Sunday

SATURDAY

BBC 1

.30 The Perishers (r). 8.35 The Littlest Hobo (r). 9.00 Saturday Superstore, managed by Mike Read. With music from the Thompson Twins, Slade and Cantabile; humour from Basil Brush; sport from skaters Karen Barber and Nicky Slater; plus cartoons and pop videos. 12.12 Weather.

.15 Grandstand, introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is: 12.20 Football focus with Bob Wilson; 12.50 News; 12.55, 1.25 and 2.00 Racing from Chepstow (including the Welsh Grand National); 1.10 Ski-ing: Downhill racing from Santa Caterina in Italy; 1.40 Motor Racing from Brands Hatch; 2.20 Rugby League: a John Player Special Cup third round match; 3.45 Football half-times and reports; 3.55 Rallycross from Brands Hatch: the Motaquip British Grand Prix; 4.40 Final score.

.05 News with Moira Stuart. 5.15 Sport/Regional news.

.20 Keith Harris Christmas Show with guests Alvin Stardust, the Roly Polys, the Ding Bats and Patrick Moore.

.55 The Circus World Championships from the Robert Brothers Big Top at Wembley. The world's best compete for gold medals in three categories – the Single Trapeze; Circus Family; and Flying Trapeze. The contenders are Sabu from South America; Dimitri of South Africa; the Equede from the United States; the Flying Jiminez from Mexico; and the National Circus of Pyongyang. The ringmaster is Norman Barrett and the commentator, Richard Skinner.

.45 Film: Breakheart Pass (1975) starring Charles Bronson and Ben Johnson. John Deakins is supposed to be the prisoner of Marshal Pearce. They are crossing the Rockies by train in the company of a group of US Cavalry who are en route to relieve an isolated fort, the scene of a diptheria epidemic. But everything is not what it seems and in the course of the hazardous journey, several deaths occur. Written by Alistair Maclean and directed by Tom Gries (Ceefax).

8.15 Dynasty. Has the racehorse Allegre been stolen for revenge or for ransom? Blake believes it is the latter. Meanwhile, Peter de Vilbis announces his engagement to Fallon (Ceefax).

9.05 Wogan's Women. Terry Wogan and Felicity Kendal re-examine Mr Wogan's technique with his lady guests. Among those are Grace Jones, Raquel Welch, Sophia Loren and Bo Derek.

10.00 News and sport. With Moira Stuart.

10.15 Films of the Year. Barry Norman's personal choice of the best and worst of the 230 films that have been released this year. Among those stars with Mr Norman giving their favourites of the year are Helen Mirren, Tom Conti and John Hurt.

11.10 Film: The Big Sleep* (1946) starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. Bogart stars as Chandler's famous detective Philip Marlowe, called to the home of the bedridden millionaire, General Sternwood. The visit leads Marlowe into a conspiracy involving blackmail, drugs and murder, at the heart of which are the General's two daughters, Carmen and Vivien. Produced and directed by Howard Hawks (Ceefax).

1.00 Weather.

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Henry Kelly. News at 6.25, 7.00 and 8.00; Saturday Call discussing children's books from 6.30; sport at 7.10. The guests include Lord Soper, the Rev Roger Royle, Larry Adler and the Gabrielli String Quartet.

8.30 The Wide Awake Club for young people.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Disney at Christmas. 101 Dalmations. 9.30 The Bells of Fraggle Rock. 10.00 The Saturday Starship, presented by Bonnie Langford, Tommy Boyd and Nigel Roberts. It's Christmas Eve at the lighthouse and the snow is falling thick and fast. The Captain, played by Fulton Mackay, and Sprocket are worried that the boat carrying their Christmas dinner may not be able to reach the rock. 11.20 Durrell and the Dodo. A profile of Gerald Durrell's Jersey Zoo.

12.15 World of Sport introduced by Dickie Davies. The line-up is: 12.20 Ski-ing from Santa Caterina. 12.45 News; 12.50 On the Ball with Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves; 1.15, 1.45 and 2.15 Racing from Lingfield; 1.30, 2.00 and 2.30 Figure Skating: The World Professional Championships from Landover, Maryland, featuring Torvill and Dean; 2.30 The Gaymers Olde English Cyder 'Celebrity Shoot' from the La Manga Club, Spain. Ian Botham and Lennie Bennett lead two teams in a competition embracing tennis, golf and cricket; 3.45 Football half-times and reports; 4.00 Wrestling: three bouts from Aylesbury; 4.45 Results.

5.00 News and Sport.

5.05 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers.

5.40 Grumbleweeds Radio Show Christmas Special. Music comedy and impressions from the talented quintet.

6.10 Punchlines. Celebrity panel game presented by Lennie Bennett (Oracle).

6.50 Russ Abbot's Christmas Madhouse. Lunacy from the popular comedian (Oracle).

7.50 3-2-1. Game show, presented by Roy Hudd. A special celebrity edition with the proceeds going to two charities – the Bud Flanagan Leukaemia Fund and the Handicapped Children's Aid Committee (Oracle).

8.50 Tarby and Friends at Christmas. Jimmy Tarbuck's guests are Millicent Martin, The Moody Blues, Dave Brenner, Les Dennis and Dustin Gee.

9.45 News.

10.00 There's Something Wrong in Paradise. A musical set in the mythical Caribbean island of Zylina. Starring Kid Creole and the Coconuts, Karen Black and the Three Degrees. The story, such as it is, concerns the Kid and the Coconuts, who have been shipwrecked on an island which is ruled by the despotic and racist President Nignat who is incensed by the group's mix-raced line-up.

11.35 London news headlines followed by Bellamy. The policeman is on the trail of a mad axe-killer who has escaped from custody.

12.20 Scrooge's Rock 'n' Roll Christmas with Bobby Goldsboro; Paul Revere and the Raiders, The Association, Mike Love and Three Dog Night.

1.10 Night Thoughts from Moshe Davis.



Cheri Lunghi as Beatrice in tonight's BBC 2 production of Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing (8.15 pm)

BBC 2

9.00 Ceefax.

2.50 Film: The Old Man and the Sea (1958) starring Spencer Tracey. Hemingway's classic tale of a fisherman's fight to land a large marlin – his first bite after 84 days fruitless endeavour in the Gulf of Mexico. Directed by John Sturges.

4.15 It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) starring James Stewart and Donna Reed. A romantic comedy about a frustrated do-gooder. When he faces financial ruin he finds help from an extremely high place. Produced and directed by *Frank Capra*.

6.20 Shakespeare in Perspective. Eleanor Bron introduces Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing, to be shown on this channel tonight at 8.15. Miss Bron looks upon the courtship of Beatrice and Benedick as the sub-plot that provides 'the richness and depth of the play and it is they who command our attention as real human beings'. Filmed at Broughton Castle, Oxfordshire.

6.45 News and Sport.

7.00 The First Noels. Part five of the seven-programme history of carols and Sir Geraint Evans examines regional carol customs which have survived for centuries. With the William Byrd Choir and the Holman Climax Choir.

7.15 Born in the USA – A Whistle Test report on Bruce Springsteen, for a decade one of the United States' greatest rock music talents and the source of quotes for both President Reagan and Walter Mondale when they addressed young people during the recent Presidential election. Springsteen has given only four television interviews in the past seven years – two of them for Whistle Test including this one which was recorded at a concert before an audience of 20,000 at the Spectrum, Philadelphia, last September.

8.15 The Saturday Alternative: Much Ado About Nothing, by William Shakespeare, starring Robert Lindsay, Cherie Lunghi, Robert Reynolds and Katherine Levy. This domestic comedy of manners also features Michael Elphick and Clive Dunn as the two clowns – Dogberry and Verges. Directed by Stuart Burge.

10.45 Arena Special from the international music festival at Varadero in Cuba.

12.00 Film: Blood From the Mummy's Tomb (1971) starring Andrew Keir and Valerie Leon. A Hammer horror about an archaeologist who finds the burial place of an Egyptian queen who is supposed to possess powers from beyond the grave. The director, Seth Holt, died during the making of this film. Ends at 1.35.

CHANNEL 4

1.05 Making the Most Of . . . Inexpensive leisure time pursuits (r).

1.30 Chips' Comic. Educational series for children.

2.00 Film: Home at Seven* (1952) starring Ralph Richardson as a bank clerk who discovers 24 hours missing from his life – a period of time in which £500 goes missing and a man is murdered. With Margaret Leighton and Jack Hawkins. Directed by Ralph Richardson.

3.35 Film: The Holly and the Ivy* (1952) starring Ralph Richardson as a country parson whose life is changed by family revelations that take place over the Christmas holiday. Directed by George More O'Ferrall.

5.00 Brookside (r).

6.00 Tube Band Aid. A repeat of the Tube item on the making of the Band Aid record in aid of Ethiopian famine relief.

6.30 7 Days. This week's edition compares the gospel narratives dealing with the Nativity. With Dr Marie Isaacs, a Biblical scholar; Dr Paddy Fitzpatrick, a Roman Catholic priest and reader in philosophy at Durham University; and Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh, patriarchal head of the Russian Orthodox Church.

7.00 News summary and weather followed by Film: This is Elvis (1981). A dramatized documentary account of the life and career of Elvis Presley. Directed by Malcolm Leo and Andrew Solt.

9.00 Two Track Mind. A musical drama based on a single day in a woman's life. The two tracks are the parallel lives of Kay and Karen, one a harassed housewife, the other a rock star. Are they the same person? The programme includes six original songs written by Mike Moran. Starring Sue Jones-Davies.

9.45 Don Quixote. An American Ballet Theater production, based on the classic tale by Miguel de Cervantes. Mikhail Baryshnikov stars in this story of a young girl's dilemma when she falls in love with someone other than the man chosen for her by her father. With Frank Smith, Cynthia Harvey, Richard Schafer and Brian Adams.

11.20 Ian Breakwell's Christmas Diary. The latter-day Pepys is this evening beseiged by rats, trendies and dead fowls.

11.30 Film: Skateboard (1977) starring Allen Garfield. Comedy about an agent who is heavily in debt to a vicious bookmaker. He tries to make the money he owes by starting a professional skateboard team but his hopes of solvency founder when the star of the team threatens to leave. Directed by George Gage.

1.20 Closedown.

Radio 4

5.55 Shipping. 6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Prelude.† 6.30 News; Farming. 6.50 Prayer. 6.55 Weather.
7.00 News. 7.10 Today's Papers. 7.15 On Your Farm. 7.45 In Perspective. 7.50 Down to Earth.
8.00 News. 8.10 Today's Papers. 8.15 Smash of the Day. Take it from Here. Christmas with the Glums (r).† 8.48 Yesterday in Parliament. 9.00 News.
9.05 Christmas in Poland. With Kevin Ruane.
9.50 News Stand. Colin Semper reviews the weekly magazines.
10.05 The Week in Westminster. With Robert Carvel.
10.30 Pick of the Week.†
11.30 A Christmas Story by Joe Mahon. A festive play starring Joe Gormley and Sheila McGibbon.
12.00 News; A Small Country Living at Christmas.
12.27 News Quiz of the Year: Part one. 12.55 Weather.
1.00 News.
1.10 Any Questions? from London. 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News; The Afternoon Play: 'Rose at Roquebrune' by Dawn Lowe-Watson, with Mary Peach and Joyce Carey.
3.00 News; Children Talking . . . About Christmas
3.30 Further Thanks to Uncle Fred. Musical reminiscences from Isabella Wallich.
4.15 The Bitter and the Sweet. The story of two pioneering sisters in the backwoods of Canada.
4.45 Persona Grata. Roy Plomley on three of his favourite humorous characters from fiction.
5.00 Wildlife.
5.25 Week Ending.† 5.50 Shipping.
6.00 News; Sports Round-up.
6.25 Karluk. The story of the Canadian Arctic Expedition, 70 years ago.
7.05 Stop the Week with Robert Robinson.†
7.45 Baker's Dozen †
8.30 Saturday-Night Theatre: 'Christmas at Dingley Dell' adapted from Dickens's 'The Pickwick Papers' and 'Christmas Stories'.
10.00 News.
10.15 A Day in the Jungle. With Stephen Sutton.
11.00 Evening Service.†
11.15 The Demon Cakestand of Beastley Chase. A tale from the Mausoleum Club.†
11.30 In One Ear. Comedy half-hour. 12.00 News; Weather.
12.15 Victorian Christmas Miscellany. Cast includes Richard Briers, Miriam Margolyes.
VHF (available in England and S. Wales only): Radio 4 vhf as above except: 5.55-6.00am Weather; Travel. 1.55-2.00pm Programme News. 5.50-5.55 Programme News.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Aubade: includes Bruch's Scottish Fantasy (Rabin, soloist); Schubert's Arpeggione Sonata (Fleming/Parsons), and Act 1 of Adam's Le Diable a Quatre.† 9.00 News.
9.05 Record Review: includes a consumer's guide to Falla's The Three-Cornered Hat.†
10.15 Stereo Release: includes Mozart's Piano Quartet in G minor, K 478 (Beaux Arts Trio).†
11.15 BBC Welsh SO, with Peter Donohoe (piano), includes Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 3; and Mussorgsky's Pictures from an exhibition (orch Ravel).† 1.00 News.
1.05 Cello and Piano: Steven Isserlis (cello), Peter Evans (piano). Includes Brahms's Sonata in E minor, and Janacek's Pohadka.†
2.00 Il Trovatore: Verdi's opera, sung in Italian. Cast includes Joan Sutherland, Pavarotti, Horne and Wixell. National Philharmonic Orchestra/London Opera Chorus. Bonynge conducts. Acts 3 and 4 at 3.20.
5.00 Jazz Record Requests: with Peter Clayton.
5.45 Critics' Forum: Topics discussed include the ITV production of Pinter's A Kind of Alaska; and Bond's Saved.
6.35 Franz Schmidt: the second version of his Quintet in A.
7.35 The Angel on the Train: Michael Pennington reads Eugene Dubnov's story.
8.00 Handel's Messiah: Part one. City of London Sinfonia/Richard Hickox conducts.†
9.00 Born of the Virgin Mary: a talk by Professor Keith Ward.
9.20 Handel's Messiah: the second and third parts.†
11.00 Haydn: Recordings including the Divertimento in B flat, H XVI 2 (Marlowe, harpsichord), and Sonata in B minor, H VI 32 (Bilson, fortepiano).†
11.57 News. Until 12.00.

Radio 2

4.00am John Turner.† 6.00 The Saturday Show.† 8.05 David Jacobs.† 10.00 Sound of the 60s.† 11.00 Album Time.† 1.00pm Radio Active. 1.30 Sport On 2: including 5.15 Scottish Football; 5.20 Cricket: from India and Australia; Rugby: 5.25 Racing Results. 5.30 Knokke Cup 1984. 6.00 Folk On 2. 7.00 Jazz Score at Ronnie Scott's. 7.30 A Celebration of Christmas (Dana, Cliff Richard, Roy Castle). 9.30 Big Band Special;† 10.02 Sports Desk. 10.05 Ken Bruce.† 12.05 Night Owls.† 1.00 Peter Dickson and Charles Nove.† 3.00-4.00 Country Concert.†

Dingley Dell Christmas (Radio 4, 8.30pm)

Radio 1

5.55am Radio 1 Chip Shop. 6.00 Mark Page. 8.00 Peter Powell. 10.00 Dave Lee Travis. 1.00pm Lenny Henry.† 2.00 Paul Gambaccini.† 4.00 Saturday Live.† 6.30 Feel The Spirit (London Community Gospel Choir). 7.30 Ian Brass. 9.30-12.00am Dixie Peach. VHF RADIOS 1 & 2: 4.00am With Radio 2. 1.00pm With Radio 1. 7.30-12.00am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty Four Hours. 7.30 From The Weeklies. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 A Jolly Good Show. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 A Jolly Good Show. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Singers Of Schubert. 10.00 News Summary. 10.01 That's Trad. 10.15 Letter From America. 10.30 People and Politics. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 About Britain. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Anything Goes. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty Four Hours. 1.30 Network UK. 1.45 Country Music Profile. 2.00 News Summary. 2.01 Music Now. 2.30 Album Time. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Saturday Special. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Saturday Special. 5.00 News Summary. 5.01 Saturday Special. 8.00 World News. 8.15 What's New. 8.30 People And Politics. 10.00 World News. 10.09 From Our Own Correspondent. 10.30 New Ideas. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Letterbox. 11.30 Meridian. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Baker's Half Dozen. 1.00 News Summary. 1.01 Play Of The Week: A Christmas Carol. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Sackbuts And Sinfonias. 2.30 Sports Review. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 3.30 Jazz Score. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Juke Box Jury. 5.45 Letter From America.

(All times in GMT)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

BBC 1 Wales: 5.15-5.20pm Sports News Wales. 1.00am Weather. Scotland: 5.15-5.20pm Sport. 10.15-10.45 Sportscene. 10.45-11.40 Films of the Year. 11.40-1.35am The Big Sleep (Humphrey Bogart). 1.35 Weather. Northern Ireland: 4.55-5.05pm Northern Ireland results (opt-out from Grandstand). 5.15-5.20 Northern Ireland news. 1.00am Northern Ireland news headlines. England: 5.15-5.20pm London: Sport. South West (Plymouth): Spotlight Sport and News. All other English regions: Sport/regional news.

S4C Starts 1.50pm What The Papers Say. 2.05 Realm of Darkness. 3.45 Wine Programme. 4.15 British At War. 6.10 Avengers. 7.10 Y Nadolig Hwnnw. 7.20 Newyddion. 7.45 Sion A Sian. 8.15 Noson Lawen. 9.20 Y Mess Cwarae. 10.10 Film: State Secret (Douglas Fairbanks Jnr, Glynis Johns). Comedy thriller. 12.05am Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

YORKSHIRE As London except: 11.35pm Return of the Saint (George Cole). 12.35am Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 9.25am-9.30 BC's Prize Time. 11.35 The Sweeney (John Thaw). 12.35am What Christmas Means To Me; Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 11.35pm Film: The Fury (Kirk Douglas, John Cassavetes). Kidnap drama. 1.40am Closedown.

CHANNEL As london except: 5.05pm Puffins Pla(i)ce. 5.10-5.40 Smurfs. 11.35 Sweeney. 12.35am Closedown.

TYNE TEES As london except: 9.25am-9.30 Morning Glory. 11.35pm Film: Love Ban. 1.20am Poet's Corner, Closedown.

TSW As london except: 5.05pm Newsport. 5.10-5.40 Smurfs. 11.35 Sweeney. 12.35am Postscript. Closedown.

BORDER As london except: 11.35pm Darkroom. 12.25am Closedown.

SCOTTISH As london except: 11.35pm Late Call. 11.40 The Comedians. 12.10am Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
† Stereo. ★ Black and white. (r) Repeat

CENTRAL As London except: 9.25am-9.30 Star of Bethlehem. 11.35 Film: Love Ban (Hywel Bennett). 1.15am Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 11.35pm Devil's Lake Concert: Tina Turner. 12.35am Reflections. 12.40 Closedown.

TVS As London except: 11.35pm Paul McCartney: The men, his music, his movies. 12.05am Company, followed by Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: pm-5.00, 4.55 Ulster Sports Results. 11.35 New Avengers. 12.30am News, Closedown.

HTV As London except: 11.35pm Muhammad Ali Goes East. 12.20am Five Ways of Christmas: Bristol Cathedral Choir. 12.25 Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 12.20am Closedown.

SUNDAY

BBC 1

9.00 Fingerbobs. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r). 9.15 Knock Knock. Children's religious stories from around the world. 9.30 Away in a Manger. Children's songs, thoughts, stories and pictures on the subject of the Nativity.

10.00 Asian Magazine celebrates Christmas with a song by the Choir of Good News Church, Birmingham. 10.30 Bonanza. Hoss and Candy are mistaken for outlaws when an old man goes too far in trying to justify his tall stories (r).

11.20 Morning Worship from St John's Methodist Church, Colwyn Bay. 12.05 Peace in No Man's Land. The story of the Christmas truce between the German and British forces on the Western Front, 70 years ago (r). 12.40 Wait Till Your Father Gets Home. A new cartoon series featuring The Boyles – an archetypal American family. Made by Hanna-Barbera.

1.05 Kung Fu. The first of a series of repeats of selected martial arts adventures starring David Carradine.

1.50 News headlines. 1.55 The Rock Gospel Show Christmas Special presented by Sheila Walsh. Among those appearing are Cliff Richard and Alvin Stardust.

2.30 The Old Man of Hoy. Highlights of the climb, recorded in August. when 17-year-old Zoe Brown, urged on by her father Joe, scaled the 450ft sandstone pillar.

3.10 Film: Ice Station Zebra (1968) starring Rock Hudson. Alistair MacLean's adventure about how a remote British base in the Arctic becomes the focal point of a confrontation between East and West. Directed by John Sturges.

5.30 The Prisoner of Zenda. The sixth and final episode and Rudolph sets off for Zenda Castle to try and rescue the king (Ceefax).

6.00 News with Jan Leeming.

6.10 Appeal by Jimmy Hill on behalf of The Boys' Brigade.

6.15 Songs of Praise. Carols for Christmas from Lincoln Cathedral. (Ceefax).

7.15 Ever Decreasing Circles. Martin refuses to go to Paul's party so Ann goes on her own. When he wakes up in the morning he receives a nasty shock.

7.45 Big Deal. Robby is generous after he wins a lot of money in a card school but he soon regrets his open-handedness *when he discovers that £500* of it is counterfeit (Ceefax).

8.35 Film: Steptoe and Son (1972) starring Wilfred Brambell, Harry H Corbett and Carolyn Seymour. Love comes to Harold in the shape of Zita, a stripper. They plight their troth despite Albert's opposition but do not find instant happiness because Albert decides to join them on their honeymoon. Directed by Cliff Owen.

10.10 Frank and Selina's Christmas Time. Frank Bough and Selina Scott with a preview of goodies to be seen on BBC Television over the Christmas period. Plus Paul Daniels conjuring up Christmas surprises, Barry Norman selecting his favourite films from the 60 odd that are on *offer this holiday – including 10* receiving their premiere on British television – and Mike Smith who reports from the set of the Christmas Day special of Just Good Friends.

10.45 News with Jan Leeming.

11.00 The Hot Shoe Show. Wayne Sleep leads an array of the best dancers in the country in a celebration of song and dance.

11.55 James Last Christmas Concert from St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

12.45 Weather.

TV-am

6.55 Good Morning Britain presented by David Frost begins with a Thought for Sunday from Bishop Konstant; news at 7.00, 8.00 and 9.00; *Rub-a-Dub-Tub* at 7.02; cartoon at 8.02; John Wells and Nigel Rees review the newspapers at 8.50. The guests include Midge Ure.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Disney at Christmas. Mickey's Christmas Carol. 9.30 The Smurfs Christmas Special (r).

10.00 Morning Worship from St George's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Southwark.

11.00 Chips. The two motorcycle policemen stop a suspect drunken driver only to discover in his car plans for a military missile system.

12.00 Cartoon Time. 12.15 Kelly's Eye. Matthew Kelly goes to West Africa to see if there are any answers to the problems of drought and famine. He meets some of the people who are helping to rebuild the lives of shattered communities. 1.00 Terrahawks defend the Fort Knox of space from the evil Krell.

1.30 The Big Match, presented by Brian Moore. Highlights from matches played yesterday afternoon in the First and Second divisions.

2.15 London news headlines followed by Children Sing Christmas at Canterbury. A concert of Christmas music from Canterbury Cathedral.

3.15 Film: Scrooge (1970) starring Albert Finney, Alec Guinness, Edith Evans and Kenneth Moore. A musical version of Charles Dickens's classic. Directed by Ronald Neame (Oracle).

5.15 Jasper Carrott Got This Mole. A cartoon story written and narrated by Jasper Carrott.

5.30 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge game, presented by Jim Bowen.

6.15 News.

6.25 Highway Christmas Special. Sir Harry Secombe is in Bethlehem. Not the famous one but the town in Dyfed, West Wales.

7.15 The Queen and her Ceremonial Horses. Peter Williams tells the story of the people and the animals housed in the Royal Mews and of The Queen's close involvement with them (Oracle).

8.15 Surprise Surprise! The unexpected presented by Cilla *Black and Christopher* Biggins.

9.15 News.

9.30 Play: December Flower, by Judy Allen. Jean Simmons, Mona Washbourne, Pat Heywood, June Ritchie and Bryan Forbes. A drama about the newly-widowed Etta Marsh who goes to stay with her elderly Aunt M whom she has *never met*. She experiences nothing but outright hostility from the people close to the aged aunt but Etta is determined that her aunt should be better looked after.

10.45 Best Friends – Cleo Laine and John Williams. A selection of music from the singer and the guitarist. Plus John Dankworth and his Orchestra and Young Musician of the Year, violinist Nigel Kennedy.

11.45 London news headlines followed by Street Dreams. A documentary that traces the history of the early hot-rod motors from the fun cars into the fast fiery racers of today's tracks and the breathtaking show pieces of the American highways. The narrator is Dave Lee-Travis.

12.40 Peace. *Gill Nevill meets some* of the people who are making positive efforts to bring peace to all parts of the globe. Followed by Closedown.

Albert Finney: he plays Scrooge in Ronald Neame's film version of Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol (ITV, 3.15pm)

BBC 2

9.00 Ceefax.

2.05 Horizon: Supercharged. A history of Grand Prix racing from 1929, when it was dominated by enthusiastic amateurs to 1939 when *professionalism was creeping* in, led by the Mercedes Benz company, urged on by Hitler's fanaticism (shown last Monday).

2.55 Music from St George's. The last of six concerts from St George's Brandon Hill, Bristol. The Philip Jones Brass Ensemble play works by Handel, Salzedo, Praetorius, Langford and John Bull.

3.45 One Man and his Dog. Heat one of the BBC Television International Sheepdog Championship, introduced by Phil Drabble from a course above Loch Lomond (r).

4.30 Geoffrey Smith's World of Flowers. The story of irises (r).

4.55 News Review. A digest of the week's news. With Jan Leeming (subtitled).

5.25 The First Noels. The sixth of seven programmes tracing the history of carols, presented by Sir Geraint Evans. Today's programme deals with the way carols were re-discovered in the 19th century. With the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

5.40 Ski Sunday. David Vine reports from Santa Caterina in Italy where the Ladies' Downhill is in progress. With Konrad Bartelski assessing the leading contenders' form.

6.15 Little Nezha Fights Great Dragon King. A cartoon story based on a Chinese legend about a young boy who gives his life to save his fellow countrymen from the evil Dragon King.

7.15 Princes' Progress. A programme that follows the progress of the two-and-a-half-year-old Prince William from when he was a few hours old to the latest pictures showing him bouncing his baby brother on his knee (Ceefax).

7.40 News with Jan Leeming.

7.45 The Natural World: Lost World of the Medusa. A documentary about the *creatures that live in a lake* hidden in the jungle of a remote Pacific island. The narrator is Barry Paine.

8.35 Fanny and Alexander. Part one of Ingmar Bergman's three-part journey into childhood. The five Oscar winning film tells of an upper middle-class family living in a Swedish town at the turn of the century. On Christmas Eve the family and their servants prepare for the festivities they will celebrate together. Parts two and three on Friday and Saturday.

10.10 Film: Tom Curtain (1966) starring Paul Newman and Julie Andrews. An Alfred Hitchcock thriller about a missing American nuclear scientist who suddenly leaves *a conference in Stockholm* to go to East Berlin. Has he defected? His fiancee and colleague follows him to find out the truth. Ends at 12.20.

CHANNEL 4

1.05 Utopia Limited. Sandra Naidoo uses the example of the fishing port of Chimbote in Peru to highlight to root causes of ill-health in the Third World (r).

1.30 Irish Angle. With half the population aged under 25 in Southern Ireland and with the country in the grip of a major economic recession and *severe unemployment* Irish Angle examines the plight of the young unemployed who, traditionally, would have emigrated to the United States or the United Kingdom to find work.

2.00 Silent Laughter. A compilation of some of the best silent comedy classic routines.

3.30 Citizen 2000. A portrait of two-year-old Louise, the second daughter of Myfanwy and Gordon Williams who run a farm near the Brecon Beacons, who will reach her majority in the year 2000.

4.00 Book Four. The final programme of the series, *presented by Hermione Lee*. She is joined by Germaine Greer, Peter Ackroyd and Humphrey Carpenter who each nominate their favourite book of 1984, the book they were most disappointed by and the paperback they most enjoyed re-reading.

4.30 Karen Armstrong in conversation with Jesuit Gerard Hughes who talks about whether all the world's religions lead to the same God.

5.00 News summary and weather followed by The Curious Case of Santa Claus. A documentary tracing the legend of Father Christmas as seen through the eyes of the man himself and his psychiatrist who he consults when faced with an identity crisis (r).

6.00 American Football. The St Louis Cardinals versus the Washington Redskins.

7.15 The Fingertip Phenomenon. The country's only professional rock climber Ron Fawcett, his wife Gill and Gerry Peel climb the 3000 feet high cliffs of the gorge of the River Verdon in Provence.

8.15 Film: The Masks of Death (1984) A made-for-television spine chiller starring Peter Cushing as Sherlock Holmes and John Mills as Dr Watson that begins when the super sleuth is lured back into harness after three corpses are discovered in the East End with expressions on their faces indicating a terrifying but *unknown cause of death*. Directed by Roy Ward Baker.

9.45 Carols from Christ Church with readings by Alec McCowen and Ian Charleson.

10.40 Ian Breakwell's Christmas Diary.

10.50 Film: The Tall Target* (1951) starring Dick Powell and Paula Raymond. Thriller about a New York detective who believes he has uncovered a plot to assassinate President-elect Abraham Lincoln. Directed by Anthony Mann.

12.15 Closedown.

Radio 4

On long wave.† Also VHF stereo.
5.55 Shipping. 6.00 News Briefing; 6.10 Prelude.† 6.30 News; Morning Has Broken.
7.00 News; 7.10 Sunday Papers; 7.15 Apna Hi Ghar Samajhiye; 7.45 Bells; 7.50 Turning Over New Leaves.
8.00 News; 8.10 Sunday Papers; 8.15 Sunday; 8.50 Week's Good Cause.
9.00 News; 9.10 Sunday Papers.
9.15 Letter From America by Alistair Cooke.
9.30 Morning Service (St. David's, Aberystwyth, Presbyterian Church of Wales and URC).
10.15 The Archers. Omnibus edition.
11.15 Weekend.
12.00 News; My Music. A seasonal edition.†
12.30 The Food Programme. 12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World This Weekend: News; 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News; Treasures and Trifles. With Bernard Price.
2.30 The Afternoon Play: 'When The Snow Lay Round About' by James Forsyth. With David Buck as King Wenceslas.†
4.00 News; Everyman's Guide to Mornington Crescent. With Raymond Baxter. William Rushton, Graeme Garden, Tim Brooke-Taylor and Barry Cryer.
4.30 The Rector of Haworth. Denys Hawthorne as the Rev. Patrick Brontë in his own feature about the man who produced a remarkable family of writers.
5.00 News; Travel.
5.05 Christmas in Poland. With Kevin Ruane.
6.00 News.
6.15 The Woodland Gospels. Captain Beakey and his Band return . . . With David Langton, Jeremy Lloyd (as Captain Beakey) and Leslie Phillips as Hissing Sid.†
7.15 The Migraine Sufferer's History of Music. With Robin Bailey (r).
7.35 A Small Country Living at Christmas. With Jeanine McMullen.
8.00 A Musical Evening. The Australian mezzo-soprano, Yvonne Minton, talks about her life.
9.00 News; Masters' India. John Masters's saga of the Savage family spanning the years 1825-1946. Book Three: 'The Lotus and the Wind'. (4) 'Horses North'.
10.00 News.
10.15 Weather-wise. With Anthony Smith.
11.00 Mindful of the Love. Canon Michael Austin talks about Hell.
11.15 Now We Are 60. Barry Norman talks to Christopher Robin Milne and friends about the real world of Winnie the Pooh (r).
11.45 Radio Brynsiencyn. The one-man radio station on Anglesey.
12.00 News; Weather.
12.15 Victorian Christmas Miscellany.† VHF (available in England & S. Wales only). Radio 4 VHF as above, except: 5.55-6.00am Weather; Travel. 1.55-2.00pm Programme News. 5.50-5.55 Programme News.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Baroque Christmas Music: includes Torelli's Concerto grosso in G minor, Op 8 No 6 (Pastorale per il Santissimo Natale).†
8.00 Brahms Chamber Music: includes the Clarinet Sonata in E flat major Op 120 No 2 (Kell/Rosen), and the String Sextet Op 36.† 9.00 News.
9.05 Your Concert Choice: includes John Ireland's Cello Sonata (Webber/McCabe) and Stanford's 'Irish' Symphony. Also Debussy's Petite Suite (Helffer and Austbö, pianos).†
10.30 Music Weekly: includes John Warrack on Schubert's last piano sonata.†
11.15 BBC SO: with Josephine Barstow (soprano). Britten's Les Illuminations and Bruckner's Symphony No 7.†
1.00 Syrinx: includes Derek Bourgeois's Quintet Op 90.
1.50 English Chamber Orchestra (Britten conducts). Includes Mozart's Symphony No 25.
2.30 Emil Gilels: piano recital. Includes Prokofiev's Sonata No 3 in A minor and Beethoven's Sonata in B flat, Op 106.†
4.05 Martinu: Angelica May and Austrian Radio SO. The Cello Concerto No 2.†
4.45 Three Voices and Piano: with James Bowman, Peter Pears, John Shirley-Quirk and Benjamin Britten. Songs by Britten, Wolf and Schütz.†
5.30 New Premises: arts review, by Stephen Games.
6.15 BBC Philharmonic Orchestra: Mahler's Symphony No 8.†
7.40 Liberty Comes to Krahwinkel: Johann Nestroy's comedy, translated by Sybil and Colin Welch. Cast includes George Layton, John Hollis and Timothy Bateson (r).†
9.00 Fauré and Franck: Malcolm Binns (piano). Includes Franck's Prelude: Aria and Finale.
9.45 Utah SO: with Elmar Oliveira (violin). Includes Sibelius's Violin Concerto; Dvorak's Serenade in D minor.†
11.00 Elly Ameling and Rudolf Jansen: Soprano and piano recital. All the works are by Schubert. They include Abendbilder, D 650.†
11.57 News. Until 12.00.

Radio 2

4.00am John Turner.† 6.00 George Ferguson.† 7.30 Good Morning Sunday including 7.45 Christmas Prayers. 9.00 David Jacobs.† 11.00 Desmond Carrington.† 12.30pm The Random Jottings of Hinge and Bracket.† 1.00 Two's Best.† 2.00 Benny Green.† 3.00 Sounds Easy.† 4.00 String Sound.† 4.30 Sing Something Simple.† 5.00 Sunday Soapbox. 6.02 Sports Desk. 6.30 Brain of Sport Challenge Match. Desmond Lynam, Peter Bromley and Alan Parry v Michael Bentley, Ray Welford and John Wilson. 7.00 Vernon and Maryetta Midgley. 7.30 Glamorous Nights. 8.30 Sunday Half-Hour. 9.00 Your Hundred Best Tunes. 10.00 Songs from the Shows. Guest singers are Dinah Harris and Brian Kay.† 10.45 Robert Docker at the piano. 11.00 Sounds of Jazz. 1.00am Nightride.† 3.00-4.00 Two's Best.

Radio 1

5.55am Radio 1 Chip Shop Basicode 2 + Computer Program. 6.00 Mark Page. 8.00 Peter Powell. 10.00 The Read and Wright Christmas Show. 12.00pm Jimmy Savile's 'Old Record' Club. 2.15 Michael Jackson – Rock's Thriller. Bruce Fidor introduces an insight into the career of one of the most successful entertainers of the present decade. Includes tributes from artists including Diana Ross, and Smokey Robinson.† 4.00 Hitsville USA: The Story of Motown. 5.00 Top 40.† 7.00 Anne Nightingale.† 9.00 Robbie Vincent.† 11.00-12.00am Feel The Spirit (London Community Gospel Choir).† VHF RADIOS 1 & 2: 4.00am With Radio 2. 5.00pm With Radio 1. 12.00-4.00am With Radio 2.

World Service appears on the facing page

BBC 1 Wales: 10.30-11.20am The Old Man of Hoy. 1.55-2.30pm Weekend Rugby Union. Wales Schools (Senior) v New Zealand Schools (Senior). 2.30-3.10 Let the Children Sing. 12.45am News of Wales. Scotland: 3.10-4.00pm Sunday Sportscene. 4.00-4.35 Beechgrove Carols. 4.35-4.45 Cartoon Time. 4.45-5.30 The Dukes of Hazzard. 6.15-7.15 Good Tidings We Bring. 12.45am Scottish news. Northern Ireland: 2.30-3.10pm Surgeons in Dublin. 12.45am Northern Ireland news.

S4C Starts: 2.10pm Bespoke Overcoat. 3.10 Chips' Comic. 3.40 Gymnastics. 4.40 Henllys Fawr. 5.15 Two Track Mind. 6.00 American Football. 7.15 Y Nadolig Hwnnw. 7.25 Wil Cwac Cwac. 7.30 Newyddion. 7.35 Caryl. 8.05 Rhaglen Hywel Gwynfryn. 8.45 Hywel Morgan. 9.25 Tellwng Yw'r Oen. 10.05 Hill Street Blues. 11.05 Don Quixote, by the American Ballet Theatre.

GRANADA As London except: 9.30 Fir Tree. 11.00 Night the Aminals Talked. 11.25 Aap Kaa Hak. 11.30-12.15 This Is Your Right. 11.45 Magnum. 12.45am Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

CENTRAL As London except: 9.25am-9.30 Star of Bethlehem. 11.00 Behind the beat of the Big Brass Drum. 11.35 Star Fleet. 12.05pm-12.15 Spinnlo. 11.45 Family. 12.45 Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 9.25 am Morning Glory. 9.30-10.00 Fir Tree. 11.00 Smurfs. 11.20-12.15pm Chips. 11.45 Carol Service from Newcastle. 12.45am Handbell Ringers, Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 11.00 Monster's Christmas. 11.45-12.15pm Smurfs Christmas Special, 11.45 Protectors. 12.10am Sports Results. 1215 News, Closedown.

SCOTTISH 10.00am Christmas Memory. 11.00 Glen Michael Cavalcade. 11.45-12.15pm Terrahawks. 1.15-2.15pm Scotsport. 11.45 Late Call. 11.50 Piece of Cake; 12.15am Closedown.

YORKSHIRE 9.30am-10.00 Fir Tree. 11.00 Cartoon. 11.15 Day of a Bear Cub. 11.45-12.15pm Smurfs. 11.45 Hotel. 12.40am Five Minutes, Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 9.30am-10.00 Gardening Time. 11.00 A Christmas Carol. 11.25 Groovie Ghoulies. 11.45-12.15pm Smurfs. 11.45 Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 11.00am Night the Animals Talked. 11.30 Cartoon. 11.45-12.15pm Nutcracker. 11.45 Return of The Saint. 12.40am Christmas People, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 10.00am Flintstone frolics. 10.30 Cause of Rejoicing. 11.00 Noddy. 11.15 Night the Animals Talked. 11-45-12-15pm Terrahawks. 1.00 Folk Tales. 1.15-2.15 Scotsport. 11.45 Tim Jones at Knotts. 12.45am Reflections, Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: Starts 12.25 pm Good News. 12.30-1.00pm Getting on. 11.45 Devlin Connection. 12.40am Closedown.

TSW As London except: 11.00 Night the Animals Talked. 11.25 Look and See. 11.30 Italian connection. 12.05pm-12.15 Cartoon. 11.45 Devlin Connection. 12.40am Postscipt. Closedown.

TVS As London except: 9.25am-9.30 Action Line. 11.00 Scoby Goes to Hollywood. 11.50 Cartoon. 12.00-12.15pm Canon in the Kitchen. 11.45 The Sweeney. 12.45am Christmas Company, Closedown.

HTV As London except: 11.00am-12.15pm Snow White Christmas. 11.45 Devlin Connection. 12.35am Five Ways to Christmas, Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV. West except: 10.45pm Cardiff Festival of Choirs: Handel's Messiah. 12.35am Closedown.



Reagan will look to Thatcher for support

Continued from page 1
meeting since Mr Reagan's re-election last November.

They will be joined by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, who will lead the American delegation to the Geneva talks with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, next month.

A senior Administration official categorically denied some British and American press reports claiming that Mrs Thatcher was opposed to the "star wars" programme, a research project into non-nuclear space weaponry for destroying missiles in flight.

The official conceded that there were some West European reservations when the President first announced the programme in March, 1983, fearing that it might lead to the militarization of space. He added that the Reagan Administration had given detailed explanations of the programme to the Western allies, who now agreed that it was both necessary and desirable in view of the Soviet Union's similar project.

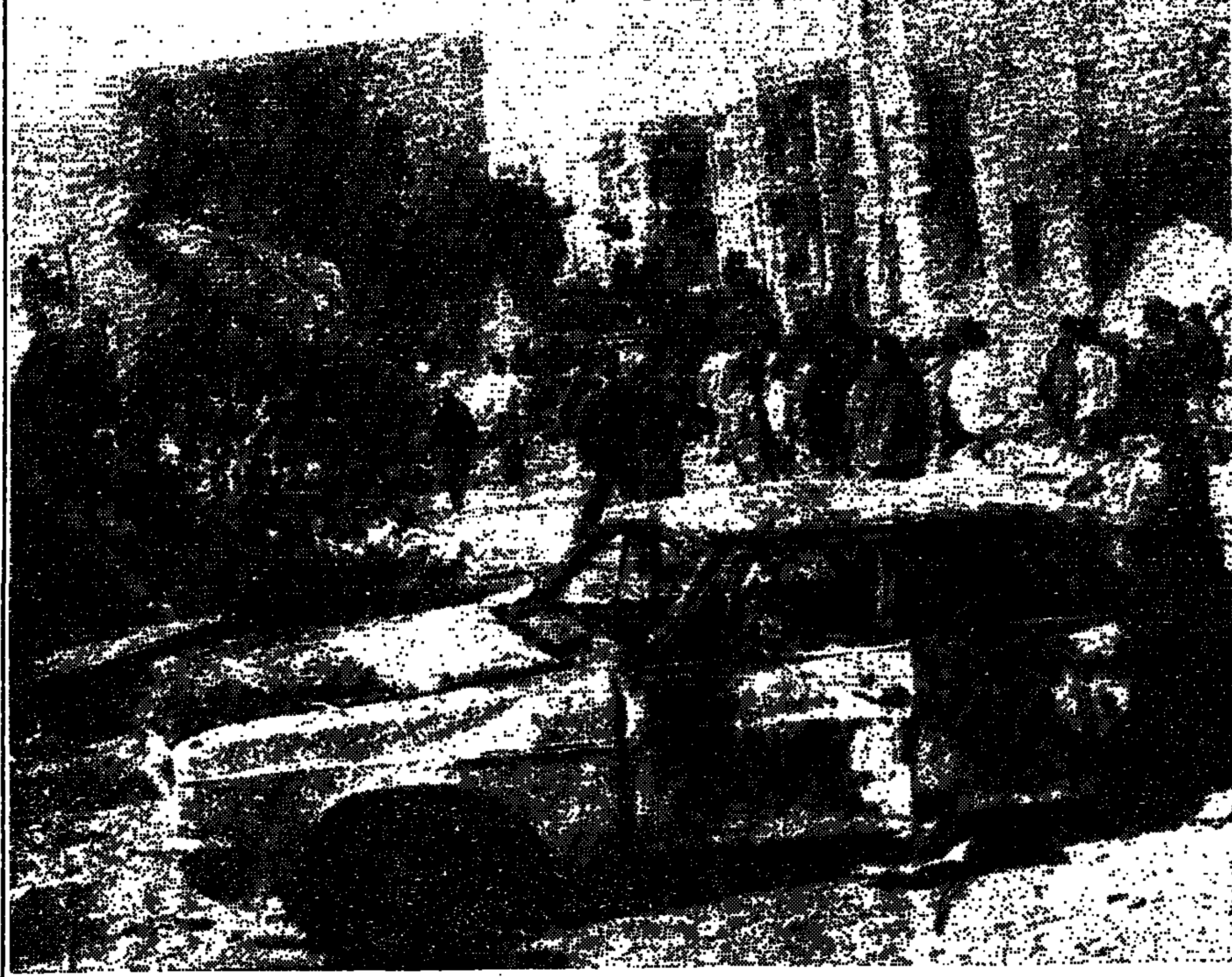
Economic issues will not loom large in today's encounter. An American official said the British economy had benefited from the high dollar and British exports to the US were at the highest level ever.

The whole tenor of today's meeting will be one of unity and agreement on arms control. The official said: "It is incredible to conceive that we would not be on the same wavelength."

● HONOLULU: Mrs Thatcher left for Washington yesterday after a 90-minute refuelling stop at a US air base in Hawaii (Reuter reports). She arrived here after a two-hour stopover in Guam.

Red faces, itinerary, page 4
Leading article, page 9

Bomb signals grim Beirut Christmas


The scene at Tas-al-Metn yesterday after a car bomb containing 200 kilos of explosive destroyed a school

At least four Druze civilians were killed and another 32 wounded – including 19 children – yesterday when a huge car bomb exploded in front of a school at Ras al-Metn in the mountains above Beirut (*Robert Fisk writes*).

According to the Druze radio station, the front of the school collapsed with the blast and many of the wounded had to be dug out of the rubble by militiamen.

Almost at once, a series of fierce artillery battles started between Christian and Druze militias in east Beirut which, *for the third time in four days* came under shellfire from Druze-held areas of the mountains. In apparent revenge, Christian Phalangists fired back at the Druze-controlled town of Bhamdoun.

Christian radio stations, which had been playing Christmas carols for much of the morning, interrupted their programmes to order the *population of east Beirut to* stay indoors.

It promises to be a bloody Christmas around Beirut.

Fighting continued yesterday, down the hillsides toward the Kharroub region above the Israeli front-line on the Awali river. Sunni Muslim militiamen there are still threatening to wipe out Christian forces on the coast when the Israelis withdraw – *which they may do* within two or three weeks.

In west Beirut, each night is punctuated by the sound of explosions

Power shift in Politburo after death of Ustinov

Continued from page 1
On the other hand, Marshal Ustinov had championed the military point of view in the Politburo so effectively since donning a marshal's uniform in 1976 that he was regarded latterly as the mouthpiece of the armed forces in the party leadership, rather than the other way round.

The appointment of a professional soldier to succeed Marshal Ustinov could have an impact on the Soviet position on arms control, and would remind Russians of Marshal Ustinov's predecessor, Marshal Grechko, who was given a seat on the Politburo in 1973, despite his military background.

The death of Marshal Ustinov alos affects the power balance in the Politburo between the younger generation, represented above all by Mr Gorbachov, aged 53, and the older generation, which made its careers under Stalin.

Mashal Ustinov, who was Stalin's Armaments Minister while in his thirties, was one of the "old guard" leaders. After the death of President Brezhnev in 1982, Marshal Ustinov played an increasingly important role and this year formed a triumvirate with President Chernenko, aged 73, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the 75-year-old Foreign Minister.

This week Marshal Ustinov was nominated as a candidate in coming elections to local Soviets (councils), gut it had become increasingly obvious that he was seriously ill.

Four days ago it was announced that Marshal Vasily Petrov would head a military delegation to Vietnam, a mission which Marshal Ustinov would normally have been expected to lead.

He became a Central Committee secretary under Brezhnev in 1965, and joined the Politburo as a full member in 1976.

Marshal Ustinov came to earn the respect of senior officers, but sometimes clashed with them, most seriously with Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, who fell from power as Chief of Staff in September.

Soviet sources said Marshal Ustinov would receive full state honours.

The implications, page 4
Obituary, page 10

Letter from Delhi

Screen god turning worship into votes

Two years ago the Indian film star Amitabh Bachchan lay close to death after a film stunt accident, and this nation of avid filmgoers prayed for days. So, too, did the Bombay film moguls who had a stake in his stardom.

Now the handsome Mr Bachchan is looking for votes rather than prayers. He is one of several stars standing for Parliament in the world's largest election, and, if the opinion polls are a good guide, the people who come to gaze at him will turn their worship into enough votes to sweep him into the seat in the city of Allahabad.

Mr Bachchan, a political novice, has been telling crowds that what they see on the screen is not what they get in real life. This is just as well, for he has made a career out of playing violent anti-heroes who seek vengeance and justice outside the law.

In one of his most popular films he plays a political leader who solves the opposition problem by blasting them all with a machine-gun. Naturally, his real-life opponent is making a point of this, and draws attention to other roles in which the star prefers fist and gun to argument.

The arrival of film stars on the electoral stage is an indication of how Indian politics has changed since the early years when politicians tended to be more heavyweight men of serious mien.

More razzmatazz than ever before

Elections in this highly political country were always rumbustious. But in this election there is more razzmatazz, image promotion and heavy spending on newspaper advertizing and posters than there has ever been.

In a country where television is in its infancy and rather dull, films are the most potent popular medium. Leading actors command huge and adoring followings. Just by being a famous face a film star has a head start in the electoral race.

Mr Bachchan is an old friend of Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He decided to stand for the Congress (I) Party after Mrs Gandhi was murdered. The former Prime Minister was among those who visited him during his famous fight for life in a Bombay hospital.

Mr Bachchan is by no means the only film actor to turn a screen following into a political one. In the southern state of Tamil Nadu, Mr M. G. Ramachandran, a regional superstar, became Chief Minister four years ago.

In neighbouring Andhra Pradesh the Chief Minister is Mr N. T. Rama Rao, who played Hindu gods for so long on the screen that he is regarded as almost a god himself.

Throneless princes in fight for seats

Real princes, as well as screen princes, are also out in some force in the fight for seats. Thirteen scions of the former royal families of India, the heirs to now non-existent thrones, are making the most of the local influence they still retain to get into Parliament.

The most celebrated battle is that between Madhavrao Scindia, son of the last Maharaja of Gwalior, and Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, who leads the BJP opposition party. Mr Scindia and his mother, the Maharani, are feuding over politics and property, and in the election the Maharani supports her son's opponent.

The matinee idols and princes are among more than 5,000 candidates contesting 511 seats. The electorate is 379 million and votes will be cast in 1,640,000 ballot boxes in 450,000 polling stations.

Camels will carry boxes in desert areas of Rajasthan, and elephanys will carry them in some other parts of the country. About two million men will be on security duty.

Ballot papers have been prepared in 15 languages, and in some places where there are numerous candidates the ballot papers are larger than a newspaper page.

Trevor Fishlock

GLC abolition debate

Continued from page 1
It was on the question of the abolition of the GLC that the Government's majority fell to its lowest figure of 23 last week, with scores of Tories either opposing the Government or abstaining.

But ministers will make such a concession only if the Bill is still held up in the lords late in July, imperilling their target date for royal assent in November.

Ministers are aware that by making such a concession only at the eleventh hour they will ensure that the all-London authority will be only the palest shadow of the GLC, since the dispersal of its more important functions will by then have been provided for.

Lords appeal on pill ruling

Continued from page 1
Mrs Marjorie Proops, the *Daily Mirror* columnist who, with other "agony aunts", has criticized Mrs Gillick's campaign, predicted more illegitimate births. She received hundreds of letters each year from girls who could be affected by the judgment.

"I am not talking about middle-class families like Mrs Gillick's, where the children are articulate and have caring and thoughtful parents who can look afaer them. The kids I am speaking of are very often rejected, from broken homes, who are not articulate and who would not be able to discuss sex with their parents", she said.

Mrs Gillick, aged 37, said yesterday that since her fight against the DHSS first went to the High Court six months ago, her children had been kicked and punched in the streets, gangs of youths had kicked their front door night after night, and the family had received obscene telephone calls and abusive letters.

Schoolgirl mother's warning, page 3

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions

The English Mill - mills in art and archaeology, Towner Art Gallery and Local History Museum, High *Street, Old Town, Eastbourne*: Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Mon. (ends Feb 10).

The Craft Fellows: works by *Veronica Tognerini and Alan* Hamshire, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, **Edinburgh**: Mon to Sat 10 to 5. (ends Jan 26).

The Aston Bequest: Victorian Paintings, Municipal Museum and Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, **Tunbridge Wells**; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 5; closed 24 to 26 Dec and Jan 1, (ends Jan 7).

"Whats New in the Arts Council Collection?" Darlington Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, **Darlington**; Mon to Sat 9 to 9, (ends Feb 3).

Music

Concert by the Chelmsford Singers with the Essex Youth Orchestra, **Chelmsford Cathedral**, 7.30.

Tring Choral Society with the Chiltern Orchestral Society, perform Handel's "Messiah", Tring Parish Church, 7.30.

Organ recital by Jonathan Gregory, St. George's Church, High Street, **Belfast**, 12.30.

Cello recital by Colin Carr, Holywell Music Room, **Oxford**, 8.

Concert by the Somerset Youth Orchestra, St. James's Church, **Taunton**, 7.30.

Christmas Music

Carol concert, **Winchester Cathedral**, 6.30.

Recital of music for Christmas by the Cathedral Choir, **Liverpool** Anglican Cathedral, 3.

Oratorio carol concert, **Wells** Cathedral, **Wells, Somerset**, 7.

The Lord Mayor's carol concert, **Leeds** Town Hall, 7.30.

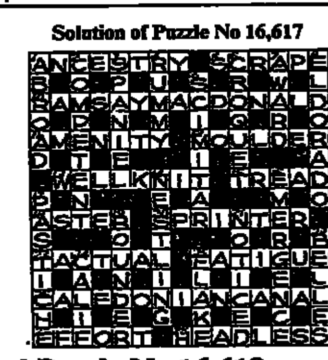
Music for Christmas by the choir of Leeds Parish Church, **Leeds** Parish Church, 3.

Family carol concert with the Bolton Choral Union, Victoria Hall, **Bolton**, 7.30.

Carol concert, St. David's Hall, **Cardiff**, 7.30.

Solution of Puzzle No 16,612

Solution of Puzzle No 16,617



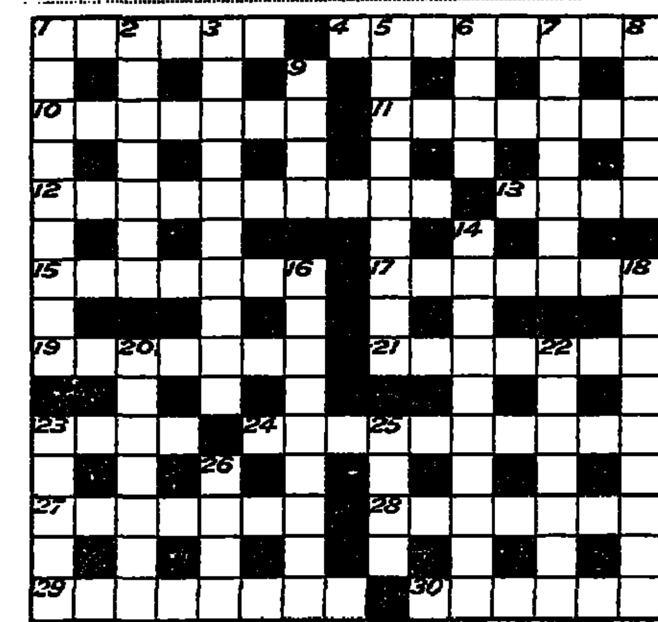
The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,618

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World *(comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.*

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Katharine Brunt, 21 Church Road, Richmond, Surrey; Mr A. M. Carcary, Floral Bank, Gattonside, Melrose, Roxburghshire; Richard J. Cornwell, 226 Stanley Park Road, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey.

Name ....

Address ....



ACROSS

1 Pooh-pooh journalist's return journey (6).
4 City position still producing great joy (8).
10 Clue – eg, "wild about love" in pastoral poem (7).
11 Connexion, married – if old, he was a source of light (7).
12 Artist going round the native country (10).
13 A point about age (4).
15 The Devil's familiar jokes (3,4).
17 A bench to get across (7).
19 Secured confidence, say (7).
21 Laced it afresh, in adjectival order (7).
23 Share a common boundary with a reservation (4).
24 Sinister woman has a record with scoundrels (5,5).
27 A catch is about to go astray – how humiliating! (7).
28 Boor receives no approval as an observer (4-3).
29 Oddly, Crete, not Italy gave us this art style (8).
30 I mean what I say about a friend (6).

DOWN

1 Had a vision about fur wrap for a wonderful girl (5-4).
2 Allied with Rex, and exultant (7).
3 Godsends – eg extraordinary persistence (10).
5 Stop mad Dane in the row of trees (9).
6 Wine put in to sweeten things (4).
7 Modify a painting technique (7).
8 May gets on as a rule (5).
9 Tinker bowled a length (4).
14 Where Houdini bought his equipment? (5,5).
16 Incidental illustration, when mounted, is a joy (9).
18 Between you and me, it might help your solving (9).
20 A I *dn* rising note to hoot (7).
22 Loiter loosely round female – in clover, maybe (7).
23 Girl takes exercises to get fit (5).
25 Young 'un, left in bed (4).
26 *The bird is flown* (4).

The Times Jumbo Crossword with an additional set of concise clues is on page 14.

Tomorrows events

Christmas Music

Festival Service of Nine Lessons, with carols by candlelight, St James the Greater, London Road, **Leicester**, 6.30.

Festival of the Nine Lessons and Carols, **Leeds Parish Church**, 6.30.

Christmas carols concert with the Bournemouth Sinfonietta and Bournemouth Symphony Chorus, Wessex Hall, **Poole**, 7.45.

Festival of Lessons and Carols, 11.30; Candlelight Service with present and former choir members, 6.15. Macrory Memorial Presbyterian Church, **North Belfast**.

Candlelight Carol Service with Church Choir, Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, **South Belfast**, 7.

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols with the Chuurch Choir, Cregagh Presbyterian Church, **East Belfast**, 7.

Anniversaries

Births: **John Crome**, painter, founder of the "Norwich" school, Norwich, 1768; **Jean Henry Fabre**, entomologist, Saint Léons, France, 1823; **Giacomo Puccini**, Lucca, Italy, 1858; **Edgar Varèse**, composer, Paris, 1883. Deaths: **George Eliot** (Mary Ann Evans), London, 1880; **Dwight Lyman Moody**, evangelist, Northfield, Massachusetts, 1899; **Beatrix Potter**, Sawrey, Lancashire, 1943. **Alfred Dreyfus** was sentenced to imprisonment on Devil's Island, French Guiana, 1895.

TOMORROW

Births: **Joseph Smith**, founder of the Church of Jesus of the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), Sharon, Vermont, 1805;

In the garden

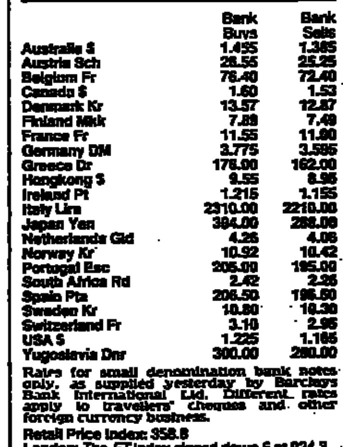
If you have been lucky enough to find a Christmas tree with roots and you have put it in soil or peat in a large pot, you may want to plant it in your garden, or a friend's if you don't have one, so that it can be used again next Christmas. I kept one going for six or seven years until it got too big to bring indoors. Water it regularly and if you can find a supply of the anti-desiccant Spray n' Save, in a garden shop, apply this if you have not already used such a preparation.

Then after Christmas keep the tree in its pot for a month at least in a sheltered spot, or plunge the pot in the ground. Only plant it out during mild weather in February or March.

Green, slimy algae are now much in evidence on gates, fences and stone or brick steps and paths. This slippery layer can be very dangerous and can be removed by applying various algicides, including the new Easy Cleen, which is harmless to plants. Jeyes Fluid may also be used, but do not allow it to contact plant foliage; also do not tramp over it and bring it into the house while it is still wet as it may stain the carpets.

RH

The pound



	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.455	1.385
Austria Sch	26.55	25.25
Belgium Fr	76.40	72.40
Canada $	1.60	1.53
Denmark Kr	13.57	12.87
Finland Mkk	7.89	7.49
France Fr	11.55	11.80
Germany DM	3.775	3.585
Greece Dr	176.00	162.00
Hongkong $	9.55	8.95
Ireland Pt	1.215	1.155
Italy Lira	2310.00	2210.00
Japan Yen	304.00	288.00
Netherlands Gld	4.26	4.06
Norway Kr	10.92	10.42
Portugal Esc	205.00	195.00
South Africa Rd	2.42	2.25
Spain Pta	206.50	196.50
Sweden Kr	10.80	10.30
Switzerland Fr	3.10	2.95
USA $	1.225	1.165
Yugoslavia Dnr	300.00	280.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 358.8

London: The *FT* index closed down 6 at 924.5.

Snow report

The following report has been supplied by a tourist board:

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather °C
AUSTRIA				
Alpbach	15	45	–	–
Badgastein	35	60	–	–
Brand	15	45	–	–
Ischgl	20	90	–	–
Kitzbühel	5	30	–	–
Lech/Zürs	50	70	–	–
Obergurgl	40	80	–	–
Obertauern	40	60	–	–
Saalbach	10	20	–	–
St Anton	20	130	–	–
Seefeld	15	25	–	–
Serfaus	20	50	–	–
Söll	15	25	–	–

Christmas wines

The Times's blind tastings for Christmas led to recommendations for the following wines: Charles Dennery Brut champagne, ASDA £5.95; 1980 Meursault Charmes, Waitrose £9.85; 1982 Gewurztraminer, Waitrose £2.75; 1979 Beaune, Domaine du Chateau de Chateau de Meursault, Waitrose £8.75; 1981 Chateauneuf-du-Pape, les Couversets, Marks & Spencer £4.75; Muscat-de-Beaumes de Venise Sainsbury £4.65;

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Roads

London and South-East: Delays on A205, South Circular Road, London.

Midlands: All major roadworks on the motorways suspended until after the Christmas holidays.

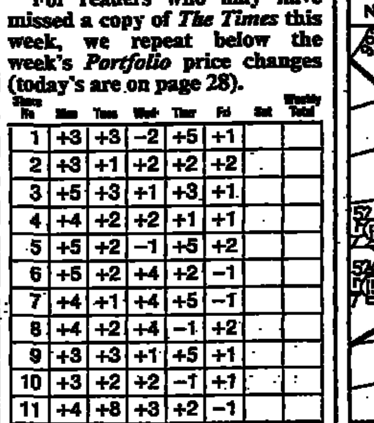
North: All major roadworks on the motorways suspended until after the Christmas holidays. M62: Urgent bridge joint repairs today and tomorrow near junction 18 (Simister), Greater Manchester. Only outside lane open eastbound at first.

Wales and West: A5: Temporary lights night and day at Tynant, W of Corwen, N Wales. A447: Only one lane, with temporary lights day and night, at Stepaside, Dyfed. Work suspended on Severn Bridge until after the Christmas holidays.

Scotland: A94: Roadworks N and S of Fardoun and Laurencekirk, on Dundee to Stonehaven Road, Grampian. A725: Roadworks on East Kilbride expressway and Bellshill bypass, Lanarkshire. A75: Roadworks at Buccleoch Bridge, Dumfries.

Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 28).



Stock No	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+3	+3	−2	+5	+1		
2	+3	+1	+2	+2	+2		
3	+5	+3	+1	+3	+1		
4	+4	+2	+2	+1	+1		
5	+5	+2	−1	+5	+2		
6	+5	+2	+4	+2	−1		
7	+4	+1	+4	+5	−1		
8	+4	+2	+4	−1	+2		
9	+3	+3	+1	+5	+1		
10	+3	+2	+2	−1	+1		
11	+4	+8	+3	+2	−1		
12	+3	+2	+1	+5	+4		
13	+3	+3	+2	+4	+2		
14	+4	+4	−1	+6	+2		
15	+5	+2	+5	+3	−2		
16	+4	+5	−1	+6	−1		
17	+5	+5	+5	+2	−1		
18	+3	+5	+2	+1	−1		
19	+5	+4	−2	+1	−2		
20	+4	+3	+5	+2	−2		
21	+10	+3	+2	+1	+2		
22	+5	+1	+1	+1	+3		
23	+12	+1	+5	+1	+1		
24	+3	+4	+1	+1	+2		
25	+4	+1	+2	+2	+1		
26	+8	+2	+3	+1	+1		
27	+5	+3	+1	+2	+1		
28	+10	+2	+3	+1	+1		
29	+2	+1	+1	+1	+3		
30	+3	+2	+2	+1	+3		
31	+4	+7	+2	+1	−1		
32	+3	+2	−2	+2	+3		
33	+2	+2	+5	+3	−2		
34	+2	+2	−2	+3	−1		
35	+2	+1	−1	+2	+2		
36	+3	+3	+2	+2	+1		
37	+3	+2	−1	+3	−2		
38	+4	+1	+1	+1	−2		
39	+2	+2	+5	+2	+1		
40	+2	+1	−1	+1	−1		

Weather

Pressure will remain low near Iceland and high over France.

Central S, SW England, S, N Wales: Rather cloudy, rain or drizzle at times, hill and coastal fog patches, bright intervals developing; wind SW fresh or strong decreasing moderate; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

E, W Midlands, E, NW, central N, NE England, Lake District: Rather cloudy, some rain or drizzle at times, hill fog patches; wind SW fresh locally strong, decreasing moderate; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F).

Isle of Man, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, rain or drizzle at times, hill and coastal fog patches but some bright intervals developing; wind SW moderates; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

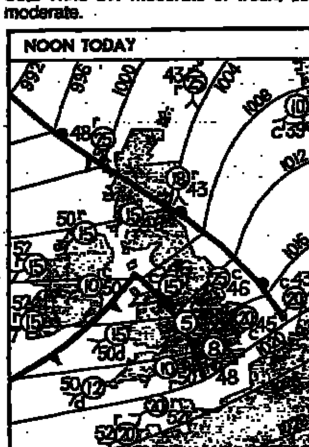
Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Argyll: Rather cloudy, some rain or drizzle at times, hill fog patches; wind SW moderate; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).

Moray Firth, NE NW Scotland, Orkney: Some bright intervals; rain or drizzle spreading from W; wind SW moderate increasing fresh; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

Shetland: Bright or sunny intervals, scattered showers; wind SW moderate; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Mild with some rain at first, but colder, brighter weather with showers will soon reach northern areas, spreading to all areas by Monday. Showers turning wintry in most places with light frost. Becoming windy in N.

Sea passages: North Sea, Straits of Dover: wind SW moderate increasing fresh locally strong sea slight becoming moderate locally rough. **English Channel (E)**: Wind fresh or strong becoming moderate later; sea moderate or rough. **St Georges Channel, Irish Sea**: Wind SW moderate or fresh; sea moderate.



TODAY

Sun rises: 8.05 am | Sun sets: 3.54 pm

Moon rises: 8.25 am | Moon sets: 3.32 pm

New Moon: 11.47 am.

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 8.05 am | Sun sets: 3.55 pm

Moon rises: 9.28 am | Moon sets: 4.33 pm

First quarter: December 30.

Lighting-up time

TODAY
London 4.24 pm to 7.35 am
Bristol 4.34 pm to 7.44 am
Edinburgh 4.10 pm to 8.13 am
Manchester 4.22 pm to 7.54 am
Penzance 4.53 pm to 7.50 am

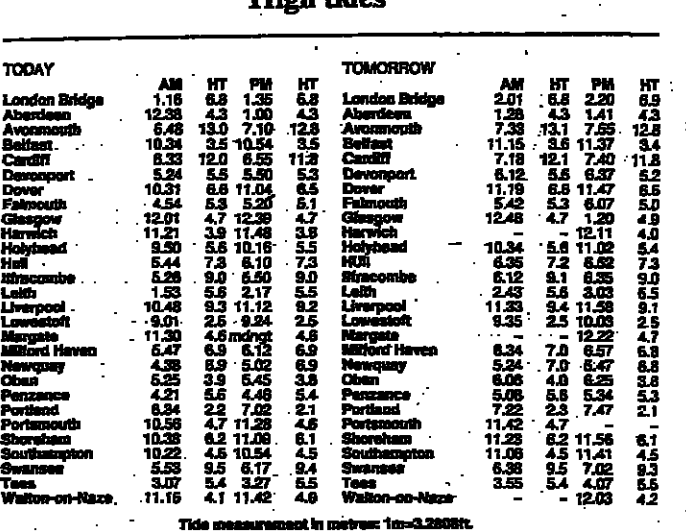
TOMORROW
London 4.25 pm to 7.35 am
Bristol 4.35 pm to 7.45 am
Edinburgh 4.11 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.22 pm to 7.54 am
Penzance 4.53 pm to 7.50 am

London

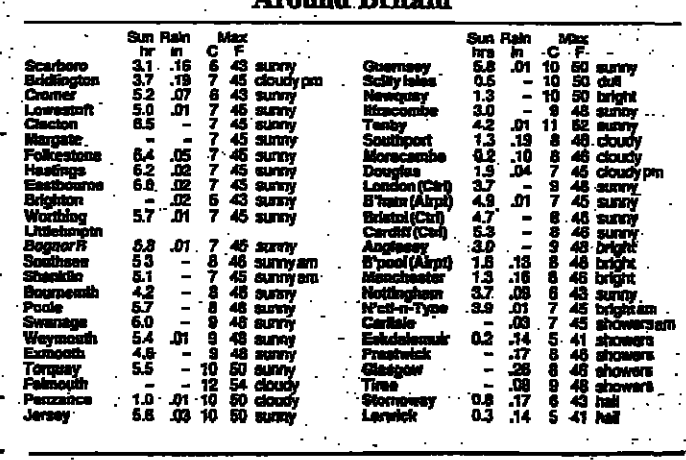
Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 9C (48F); min 6pm to 6am, 5C (41F). Humidity: 6pm, 72 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 5.7hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 1030.9 millibars and rising. 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Falmouth 12C (54F); lowest day max: Aviemore 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Keswick 0.35ins; highest sunshine: Clacton 6.5hrs.



High tides



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.16	6.8	1.35	6.8	London Bridge	2.01	6.8	2.20	6.9
Aberdeen	12.38	4.3	1.00	4.3	Aberdeen	1.28	4.3	1.41	4.3
Avonmouth	6.48	13.0	7.10	12.8	Avonmouth	7.33	13.1	7.55	12.8
Belfast	10.34	3.5	10.54	3.5	Belfast	11.15	3.6	11.37	3.4
Cardiff	6.33	12.0	6.55	11.8	Cardiff	7.18	12.1	7.40	11.8
Devonport	5.24	5.5	5.50	5.3	Devonport	6.12	5.6	6.37	5.2
Dover	10.31	6.6	11.04	6.5	Dover	11.19	6.6	11.47	6.5
Falmouth	4.54	5.3	5.20	5.1	Falmouth	5.42	5.3	6.07	5.0
Glasgow	12.01	4.7	12.39	4.7	Glasgow	12.48	4.7	1.20	4.9
Harwich	11.21	3.9	11.48	3.8	Harwich	–	–	12.11	4.0
Holyhead	9.50	5.6	10.16	5.5	Holyhead	10.34	5.6	11.02	5.4
Hull	5.44	7.3	6.10	7.3	Hull	6.35	7.2	6.62	7.3
Ilfracombe	5.26	9.0	6.50	9.0	Ilfracombe	6.12	9.1	6.35	9.0
Leith	1.53	5.6	2.17	5.5	Leith	2.43	5.6	3.03	5.5
Liverpool	10.48	9.3	11.12	9.2	Liverpool	11.33	9.4	11.58	9.1
Lowestoft	9.01	2.5	9.24	2.5	Lowestoft	9.35	2.5	10.03	2.5
Margate	11.30	4.6	mdngt	4.6	Margate	–	–	12.22	4.7
Milford Haven	5.47	6.9	6.12	6.9	Milford Haven	6.34	7.0	6.57	6.8
Newquay	4.38	6.9	5.02	6.9	Newquay	5.24	7.0	5.47	6.8
Oban	5.25	3.9	5.45	3.8	Oban	6.06	4.0	6.25	3.8
Penzance	4.21	5.6	4.46	5.4	Penzance	5.08	5.6	5.34	5.3
Portland	6.34	2.2	7.02	2.1	Portland	7.22	2.3	7.47	2.1
Portsmouth	10.56	4.7	11.28	4.6	Portsmouth	11.42	4.7	–	–
Shoreham	10.38	6.2	11.09	6.1	Shoreham	11.28	6.2	11.56	6.1
Southampton	10.22	4.5	10.54	4.5	Southampton	11.08	4.5	11.41	4.5
Swansea	5.53	9.5	6.17	9.4	Swansea	6.38	9.5	7.02	9.3
Tees	3.07	5.4	3.27	5.5	Tees	3.55	5.4	4.07	5.5
Walton-on-Naze	11.15	4.1	11.42	4.0	Walton-on-Naze	–	–	12.03	4.2

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain

	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Scarboro	3.1	.16	6	43	sunny	Guernsey	6.8	.01	10	50	sunny
Bridlington	3.7	.19	7	45	cloudy pm	Scilly Isles	0.5	–	10	50	dull
Cromer	5.2	.07	6	43	sunny	Newquay	1.3	–	10	50	bright
Lowestoft	5.0	.01	7	45	sunny	Ilfracombe	3.0	–	9	48	sunny
Clacton	6.5	–	7	45	sunny	Tenby	4.2	.01	11	52	sunny
Margate	–	–	7	45	sunny	Southport	1.3	.19	8	46	cloudy
Folkestone	6.4	.05	7	45	sunny	Morecambe	0.2	.10	8	46	cloudy
Hastings	6.2	.02	7	45	sunny	Douglas	1.9	.04	7	45	cloudy pm
Eastbourne	6.0	.02	7	45	sunny	London (Ctrl)	3.7	–	9	48	sunny
Brighton	–	.02	6	43	sunny	B'ham (Airpt)	4.9	.01	7	45	sunny
Worthing	5.7	.01	7	45	sunny	Bristol (Ctrl)	4.7	–	8	46	sunny
Littlehmptn						Cardiff (Ctrl)	5.3	–	8	46	sunny
Bognor R	5.8	.01	7	45	sunny	Anglesey	3.0	–	9	48	bright
Southsea	5.3	–	8	46	sunny am	B'pool (Airpt)	1.6	.18	8	46	bright
Shanklin	5.1	–	7	45	sunny am	Manchester	1.3	.16	8	46	bright
Bournemth	4.2	–	8	46	sunny	Nottingham	3.7	.08	6	43	sunny
Poole	5.7	–	8	46	sunny	N'ctl-n-Tyne	3.9	.01	7	45	bright am
Swanage	6.0	–	9	48	sunny	Carlisle	–	.03	7	45	showers am
Weymouth	5.4	.01	9	48	sunny	Eskdalemuir	0.2	.14	5	41	showers
Exmouth	4.6	–	9	48	sunny	Prestwick	–	.17	8	46	showers
Torquay	5.5	–	10	50	sunny	Glasgow	–	.26	8	46	showers
Falmouth	–	–	12	54	cloudy	Tiree	–	.08	9	48	showers
Penzance	1.0	.01	10	50	cloudy	Stornoway	0.8	.17	6	43	hail
Jersey	5.6	.03	10	50	sunny	Lerwick	0.3	.14	5	41	hail

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	s	15	59	Cologne	c	7	45	Majorca	dr	12	54	Rome	f	14	57
Akrotiri	f	17	63	Copenhgn				Malaga	f	16	61	Salzburg	r	3	37
Alexandria	c	21	73	Corfu		–		Malta	c	16	61	Sao Paulo*	c	25	77
Algiers				Dublin	f	5	41	Melbourne	c	21	70	S Francisco*	c	8	46
Amsterdam	s	8	46	Dubrovnik	s	16	61	Mexico C*	s	15	59	Santiago*	s	27	81
Athens	c	13	55	Faro	f	18	64	Miami*	c	23	73	Seoul	f	−2	28
Bahrain	f	19	66	Florence	c	9	48	Milan	s	7	45	Singapore			
Barbados*	c	27	81	Frankfurt	f	8	46	Montreal*	s	1	34	Stockholm	c	3	37
Barcelona	f	12	54	Funchal	c	18	64	Moscow	s	−14	7	Strasbourg	f	9	48
Beirut	s	20	68	Geneva	c	8	46	Munich	r	6	43	Sydney	s	22	72
Belgrade	s	9	48	Gibraltar	c	16	61	Nairobi				Tangier			
Berlin	r	7	45	Helsinki	sn	1	34	Naples	s	16	61	Tel Aviv	s	23	73
Bermuda*	c	23	73	Hong Kong	c	15	59	New Delhi	s	16	61	Tenerife	f	20	68
Biarritz	c	13	55	Innsbruck	f	3	37	New York*	s	9	48	Tokyo	c	9	48
Boulogne	s	6	43	Istanbul	c	9	48	Nice	f	13	55	Toronto*	sn	−1	30
Bordeaux	f	12	54	Jiddah	f	31	88	Oslo	f	−3	27	Tunis	f	16	61
Brussels	c	7	45	Jo'burg				Paris	f	9	48	Valencia	f	14	57
Budapest	fg	2	36	Karachi	s	21	70	Peking	s	−5	23	Vanc'ver*	sn	−1	30
Buen Aires*	f	25	77	Las Palmas	f	20	68	Perth	s	28	82	Venice	c	8	46
Cairo				Lisbon	s	16	61	Prague	r	3	27	Vienna	r	1	34
Cape Tn	s	24	75	Locarno	s	6	43	Reykjavik	sn	−2	28	Warsaw	c	4	39
C'blanca				L Angeles*	s	11	52	Rhodes	s	17	63	Washington*	f	11	52
Chicago*	s	−2	28	Luxembg	c	4	39	Riyadh	c	22	72	Wellingtn*	f	20	68
Ch'church*	c	24	75	Madrid				Rio de Jan	c	22	72	Zurich	r	5	41

* denotes Thursday's figures are latest available